

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Project Title: Pilot Study Investigations at Potential Groundwater Recharge Sites

Location -- Specific: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency ("SCVWA" or "Agency") is located in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties approximately 34 miles north of Downtown Los Angeles. The pilot study sites are located in the portion of SCVWA's service boundaries that are solely within Los Angeles County. The locations are: 1) SCVWA property southwest of Castaic Lagoon near Castaic Road and Ridge Route Road, 2) the portion of the Santa Clara River southeast of Lang Station Road and Soledad Canyon Road and west of Bee Canyon just south of the CA-14 freeway.

Location -- Counties: Los Angeles County

Description of Activity: As part of SCVWA's mission, the Agency continues to research and develop options to supplement its diversified water supply portfolio. Two previous studies, commissioned by SCVWA's predecessor agencies Newhall County Water District and Castaic Lake Water Agency, identified locations of interest for possible groundwater recharge activities. Building on these prior efforts, SCVWA intends on collecting the necessary site specific field data from both pilot study sites to determine the viability and sustainability of each location's recharge capacity.

Information Collection Activities

Pilot study investigations at each site will include: land surveys, geophysical surveys, soil borings, soil characterization, infiltration testing, aquifer testing, 3 monitoring wells (converted from soil borings), water level monitoring, measured depth to groundwater, depth to bedrock, and thickness of the alluvial aquifer beneath the proposed recharge area. The temporary wells are estimated to have a life expectancy of approximately two years and will be properly decommissioned once the study has concluded. Site access agreements will be procured before information collection activities occur. The data that's collected will be utilized to calculate infiltration rates, conduct mounding assessments, calculate the groundwater gradient, evaluate the groundwater velocity, and update the existing local groundwater model with site specific information.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15262.

Reasons why activity is exempt: The CEQA determination is that the proposed action qualifies under both the Feasibility and Planning Studies statutory exemption (§15262) and a categorical exemption for information collection (Class 6, §15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines), since the activities involve a conceptual plan associated with feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions, as well as basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These activities are strictly for information gathering purposes, as part of a study leading to actions which the SCVWA Board has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Additionally, none of the exceptions in §15300.2 apply to the proposed actions. Impacts at both locations will be temporary and will be conducted consistently with any necessary permitting requirements from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dirk Marks

Telephone: 661-513-1297

Signature: *Dirk Marks*

Title: *Director of Watersheds* **Date:** *5/15/19*

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

June 3, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE