

Public Notice  
Notice of Exemption



**To:** Santa Clara County  
Clerks-Recorder's Office  
110 W Tasman Drive – First Floor  
San Jose, CA 95134

**From:** Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118-3686  
Telephone (408) 265-2600

**Project Title:** Grant Agreement for Funding Acquisition of Real Property (Sargent Ranch) with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for the Safe, Clean Water Project D7 Partnerships for the Conservation of Habitat Lands, Project No. 26072008

**Project Location-Specific:** Sargent Ranch, accessor parcel numbers 810-37-005, 810-37-007, 810-38-002, 810-38-017, 810-83-014, and 810-83-015.

**Project Location-City:** unincorporated

**Project Location-County:** Santa Clara County

**Project Purpose:** The Agreement would grant Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program funds to Peninsula Open Space Trust to acquire a portion of Sargent Ranch to preserve and protect habitat, critical wildlife landscape linkages, and a part of the *Juristac* Tribal Cultural Landscape.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Valley Water

**Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project:** Valley Water

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial [§21080(b)(1); 15268]
- ☐ Declared Emergency [§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)]
- ☐ Emergency Project [§21080(b)(c); 15269(b)(c)]
- ☒ Categorical Exemptions [§15325, Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The proposed Agreement would fund the acquisition of a portion of Sargent Ranch, a high-priority conservation area, to preserve existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats; allow restoration of natural conditions; and preserve historical resources. The project meets the parameters described in CEQA Guidelines §15325 for transfers of ownership of interests in land to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources.

The Agreement meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15325 and is eligible for the Exemption. The Agreement does not include or allow any factors that would preempt the Project's eligibility per CEQA Guidelines §15300.2.

**Description of Project**

Valley Water proposes to provide funds through the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program to POST to acquire a 2,184.41-acre portion of the Sargent Ranch property. Sargent Ranch is just south of the City of Gilroy, adjacent to and west of Highway 101 and Carnadero Preserve, north of State Route 129, and east of Star Creek and Pescadero ranches. The area is part of the *Juristac* Tribal Cultural Landscape, traditional territory of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. It is also home to numerous special-status species, offers critical wildlife landscape

linkages between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the adjacent Diablo and Gabilan ranges, and supports Tar, Sargent, and Pescadero creeks, which feed into the Pajaro River and Monterey Bay.

**Agency Contact Person:** Lisa Holm, Valley Water

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (408) 630-3241

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Lisa Holm  
Associate Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record