

Public Notice
Notice of Exemption



To: County of Santa Clara
Clerk-Recorder's Office, Business Division
70 West Hedding Street, First Floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110

From: Valley Water
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118
Telephone (408) 630-3096

Project Title: Coyote Pumping Plant Adjustable Speed Drive Replacement Project

Project Location-Specific: Coyote Pumping Plant (CPP) is owned by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and operated and maintained by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water). CPP is located at 18300 Peet Road in Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County.

Project Location-City: Morgan Hill

Project Location-County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: To modernize equipment at the CPP that has reached the end of its useful life to allow for reliable and efficient operation of the plant.

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 [§15301, Class 1 – Existing Facilities]; and [§15304, Class 4, “Minor Alterations to Land”]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions

Description of Project: The proposed project would involve the inspection, maintenance, and replacement of critical electric adjustable speed drives (ASD) and related electrical components. The project would replace major electrical, mechanical, and control systems equipment, including supporting systems such as concrete equipment pads, overhead electrical busways, and interconnecting electrical conduit and wire (both underground and above-grade). Construction would occur in the outdoor electrical switchyard and in the interior of the CPP building. The project is scheduled to be constructed in 2023-2025.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project is limited to routine equipment modernization and maintenance of aging electrical and mechanical works at an existing pumping plant. The project would not result in the construction of new or expansion of existing facilities. Pumping capacity would not increase. All work and staging would be limited to the existing CPP site. Therefore, the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption (CE) under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15301 for “Existing Facilities” (Class 1) and §15304 for “Minor Alterations to Land” (Class 4).

“Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.”

“Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation

which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.”

None of the conditions that would preempt the project eligibility for a CE noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 would occur.

Lead Agency: Valley Water
Contact Person: Michael F. Coleman, AICP

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:
(408) 630-3096

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: Emmanuel Aryee
Deputy Operating Officer

cc: CEQA Administrative Record

DRAFT