

Notice of Exemption

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Central Valley Flood Protection Board
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State Clearinghouse Number: 2024050054

Project Title: Minor Alteration No. WA2025034 – Geotechnical Drilling Exploration for Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Physical Improvements Project

Project Applicant/Lead Agency: Department of Water Resources; Grant Thornton; Unit Manager, HREC; 3500 Industrial Blvd, West Sacramento, CA 95691; grant.thornton@water.ca.gov; (916) 820-7589

Project Location: The project is located in the Yolo Bypass at 24 boreholes and one test pit, from 38.5631°, -121.6378° to 38.4650°, -121.6320° within Yolo County.

Project Description: To perform geotechnical investigations activities. The proposed investigations include 24 boreholes and one test pit within the existing roadways and parking areas in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Construction activities will include clearing and grubbing of existing vegetation or pavement removal in the work areas and ground disturbance by a truck-mounted drill rig and equipment to drill and backfill the boreholes. The exploration activities consist of drilling 8.25-inch diameter geotechnical exploration hollow stem borings drilled to maximum depth of 80 feet, or to refusal, below existing ground, and excavating a 3-foot wide, 5-foot long, and 8-foot deep test pit. Soil samples will be collected using Standard Penetration Tests, Shelby tube sampling, and cuttings from the test pit. The boreholes will be backfilled with grout the same day of drilling, placed to depth by a tremie. The test pit will be backfilled with the excavated spoils. The backfill shall will be in accordance with County Standards and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Waters, Division 1, (Title 23) standards.

Public Agency Approving Project: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption: Sec. 15306 & 15304

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Board has determined that the project activities within the Board's authority are exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Class 6 (Information Collection) categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306). The project qualifies for this exemption because it involves information collection, research, or resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. And, the Board has determined that the project activities within the Board's authority are exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304). The project qualifies for this exemption because it involves minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Board further finds that none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15300.2 apply.

Chris Lief

10/6/2026

Signature

Chris Lief, Executive Officer

Date

☒ Signed by Public Agency ☐ Signed by Responsible Agency

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.