

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

**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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Sacramento, CA 95821  
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**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2024101196

**Project Title:** Minor Alteration No. WA2025061 – Berenda Slough Gauging Station

**Project Applicant:** Department of Water Resources (DWR)

**Project Location:** The facility is located on the right bank of Berenda Slough in Madera County (36.99614°N, 120.38329°W).

**Project Description:** To install a stream gauge station on the right bank of Berenda Slough. Construction includes placing the station box on two station legs which will be installed by digging two 8-inch-diameter by 36-inch-deep boreholes with an auger and filled with concrete to provide support; installation of a cement slab, up to 4-foot-wide by 4-foot-long around the station legs; installation of galvanized steel pipes to hold staff gauges in four 18-inch-diameter by 24-inch-deep holes that will be dug with an auger in the streambed/bank and will be filled with concrete; and placing approximately 250 feet of galvanized steel pipe, to contain the bubbler line, above ground and fastened to the stream bank with 3/8-inch rebar anchors which will be driven 18 to 24 inches into the ground, running from the station to the bottom of the staff gauge. All soil displaced from the auguring will be smoothed out using a hand rake across a flat 10-foot by 15-foot area at the top of the bank, away from the channel.

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

**Lead Agency, Contact, Phone Number:** DWR 691 N Laverne Ave, Fresno, CA, 93727; Steve Doe, Principal Engineer; 559-547-1159; steve.doe@water.ca.gov

**Exempt Status:**

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15306, 15304, 15303, and 15301

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 6, Information Collection categorical exemption (CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15306), because the activity consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project is also exempt from CEQA under the Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land categorical exemption (CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304), because the activity consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. In addition, the project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures categorical exemption (CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15303), because the activity consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. Finally, the project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 1, Existing Facilities categorical exemption (CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15301), because the activity 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 use. No expansion of existing or former use will occur. Further, none of the exceptions to the exemption in CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15300.2 apply.

6/10/2025

*Chris Lief*

Signature

Chris Lief, Executive Officer

Date

☒ Signed by Public Agency      ☐ Signed by Responsible Agency