

California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA) NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Clara County
Clerk-Recorder's Office
110 West Tasman Drive, First Floor
San Jose, CA 95134

FROM: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA § 21152(b) AND CEQA GUIDELINES § 15062.

PROJECT TITLE: San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility - Issuance of Permit to Operate for Ammonia Scrubber and Carbon Absorption at Source 203, Sludge Handling – Centrifuges/Conveyors/Storage Bins/Truck Loading (Air District Application 714102).

Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105. Contact Person: Brenda Cabral, Supervising Air Quality Engineer; Telephone: (415) 749-4686, Email: bcabral@baaqmd.gov

Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project: San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility.

Project Applicant Mailing Address: 700 Los Esteros Road, San Jose, CA 95134.

Project Applicant Contact Person: Jason Nettleton, Senior Engineer, San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility; 700 Los Esteros Road, San Jose, CA 95134. Telephone: (408) 635-4036, Email: Jason.Nettleton@sanjoseca.gov

Project Location: 700 Los Esteros Road, San Jose, Santa Clara County, CA 95134. Nearest Cross Street: near Spreckles Avenue and Grand Boulevard.

Project Description: Proposed installation of an Ammonia Scrubber and Carbon Absorption at the Digested Sludge Dewatering Facility, Source 203, located at the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility.

Finding of Exemption:

- The Air District has determined that this permit action is statutorily exempt from CEQA because the project will not increase any air quality emissions. Accordingly, there will be no new or substantially more severe impacts to air quality than those identified in the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (PMP FEIR), and there will be no new or

- substantially more severe significant impacts to other resource areas. Additionally, no new mitigation measures or alternatives, which are considerably different from those analyzed, have been identified. (CEQA Guidelines § 15268).
- The Air District has also determined that this permit action is categorically exempt from CEQA because the project involves no expansion of use beyond that previously existing at the time of the Air District's CEQA determination. (CEQA Guidelines § 15301).
- Finally, the Air District has also determined that this permit action would be exempt from CEQA under the "common sense" exemption because the project is an addition of health protection devices to an existing facility, whose purpose would be to lower air quality emissions and would not result in any significant effect to the environment. (CEQA Guidelines § 15061, subdivision (b)(3)).

Basis for Exemption:

In 2013, the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant Master Plan (PMP Project) was approved to rebuild the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, as analyzed in the PMP FEIR. In 2019, refinement and improvements for the biosolids operation including the Digested Sludge Dewatering Facility were approved, and the 2019 Addendum found that those changes did not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than analyzed in the PMP FEIR.

The proposed project constitutes further minor modifications to the PMP Project because it would add abatement equipment, specifically an ammonia scrubber and carbon absorption, to the Digested Sludge Dewatering Facility, source 203. The purpose of these abatement devices is to reduce ammonia emissions and assist in odor control. The Air District has concluded that the installation of an ammonia scrubber and carbon absorption to source 203 is exempt from CEQA because it will not result in any expansion of existing or former use and will not increase any air quality emissions. Accordingly, there will be no new or substantially more severe impacts to air quality than those identified in the PMP FEIR. Further, there will be no new or substantially more severe significant impacts to other resource areas. Additionally, no new mitigation measures or alternatives, which are considerably different from those analyzed, have been identified. The Air District has also determined that the proposed project would be exempt from CEQA under the "common sense" exemption because the project is an addition of health protection devices to an existing facility. In making the determination that this project is statutorily and categorically exempt, the Air District reviewed the submitted permit application materials, including a CEQA Appendix H, and concluded that: 1) there is no potential for a significant environmental impact from the project; 2) no formal health risk assessment was required by the Air District; and 3) the project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances or cumulative impacts from successive projects of the same type in the same place.


Pamela J. Leong
Director of Engineering
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

June 9, 2025
Date