

Public Notice  
Notice of Exemption



**To:** Santa Clara County  
Clerks Office, Business Division  
70 West Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

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

**Project Title:** Utility and Geotechnical Investigations for the Vasona Pump Station Upgrade Project

**Project Location-Specific:** Santa Clara Valley Water District

**Project Location-City:** Los Gatos

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

**Project Purpose:** To perform basic data collection for Valley Water staff's consideration of existing utility and soil information at Vasona Pump Station.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Santa Clara Valley Water District (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 [§15306, Information Collection]
- Statutory Exemptions

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15306:

“Class 6 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 proposed project includes small-scale utility and geotechnical investigations for information gathering purposes. Therefore, the proposed project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15306 and is eligible for a CE. As described below, the proposed project does not include any factors that would preclude the project's eligibility for a CE per CEQA Guidelines §15300.2.

### Description of Project

The utility investigation would include fourteen (14) potholes at VPS. The confirmed locations of underground utilities would be incorporated into the capital improvement project's design to minimize impacts to existing utilities prior to initiating construction. Typical pothole size would be 12-inches in diameter or 12-inch by 12-inch square. However, the actual size of the potholes would be determined based on the ability to avoid disruption and collateral damage, and level of confidence in locating the crown of the desired utility with available utility location records and field markings.

The proposed excavations are small-scale and would be located within the existing facility's paved areas and parking lots. The geotechnical investigation would include one (1) boring to determine the characteristics of the soil in the area. Boring soil samples would be obtained near the ground surface, at two and a half (2½) feet below ground surface (bgs), five (5) feet bgs, and every five (5) feet thereafter until the planned bottom of the hole is reached. The upper four (4) feet of each boring would be hand augured. The deeper borings would be drilled using a truck-mounted drill rig equipped with hollow-stem augers. If groundwater is encountered, then the drilling method would be switched to mud rotary. The contractor would be responsible for maintaining a log of the soils encountered, obtaining samples for visual examination, and classifying those soils using the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS), and laboratory testing.

**Agency Contact Person:** Christopher Hall, Valley Water

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (408) 630-2317

Signature: Christopher Hall

Date: 8/27/25

Title: Christopher Hall  
Assistant Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record