Public Notice

Notice of Exemption

Valley Water

To: Merced County Clerk
M Street
Merced, CA 95340

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District 2222
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118-3686
Telephone (408) 265-2600

Project Title: Pacheco Pumping Plant Anode Replacement Project

Project Location–Specific: Pacheco Pumping Plant, Dinosaur Point Road, Merced County, CA

Project Location-City: N/A - unincorporated

Project Location-County: Merced

Project Purpose: The project is needed to replace an existing cathodic protection anode bed that has been depleted and has reached its maximum life expectancy. The project will protect the existing 150-foot-diameter water tank, inlet pipe, and outlet pipe at Pacheco Pumping Plant from external corrosion and related leaks and failures.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Exempt Status: (*check one*)

- ☐ Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 21080(b)(c)];
- ☒ Categorical Exemption [§15302: Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions [*State code number*].

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project qualifies for the following exemptions:

Class 2 Categorical Exemption (CEQA Guidelines §15302: Replacement or Reconstruction)

> *Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced*

None of the exceptions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 apply.

Description of Project:

Cathodic protection systems are used to protect buried or submerged steel pipelines from external corrosion and eliminate related pipeline leaks and failures. The existing horizontal anode bed for the cathodic protection system that protects the 150-foot-diameter water tank, inlet pipe, and outlet pipe at Pacheco Pumping Plant has been depleted and must be replaced. The project proposes abandoning the existing horizontal anode bed in place, removing existing anode conduit and anode wire leads, installing

a new shallow horizontal anode bed 60 feet away from the existing anode bed, installing a new flush-mounted anode pull box next to the new anode bed, and installing new electrical conduit to connect the new anode bed to the existing rectifier located onsite, which would energize the anode bed. The new anode bed would have the same purpose as the existing anode bed and there would be no expansion of use.

All project-related ground disturbance, stockpiling, and staging would occur in flat gravel areas at the Pacheco Pumping Plant site. No trees or native vegetation would be removed or disturbed. No work would occur in waters, wetlands, or riparian habitat. Construction is anticipated to take four weeks.

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Kelly White

Area Code/Telephone/Extension
(408) 630-2840

Signature: Signed by: Greg Williams CCD85AE6BBF744F... Date: 9/17/2025

Title: Gregory Williams
Deputy Operating Officer
Raw Water Division

cc: CEQA Administrative Record