

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: San Mateo

555 County Center (1st Floor)

Redwood City, CA 94063

**From:** (Public Agency): County of San Mateo

Department of Public Utilities

555 County Center (5th Floor), Redwood City, CA 94063

(Address)

Project Title: CSA 7 Water System Distribution Pipeline Improvements Project

Project Applicant: County of San Mateo

Project Location - Specific:

**Unincorporated San Mateo County, CA**

Project Location - City: La Honda Project Location - County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project includes the rehabilitation of an existing water pipeline through the installation of a new treated water distribution pipe and a raw water distribution pipe. The project would create a minor alteration of land to connect the new raw water lines to the existing water service of CSA 7. See additional pages attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of San Mateo, Department of Public Utilities

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sec. 15301 (d), 15302 (c), 15304(c)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:


The project will replace approximately 2.1 miles of an existing water system pipeline causing chronic leaks and breakages in the system. The reconstruction of these lines will also serve the same purpose with similar capacity without expansion the water system area of service.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Tiffany Deng Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 650.383.4429

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature:  Date: 5/4/2026 Title: Senior Civil Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The CSA7 Water System Distribution Pipeline Improvements Project includes the rehabilitation of an existing water pipeline through the installation of a new treated water distribution pipe, a raw water distribution pipe, and a raw water well. The project would create a minor alteration of land in order to connect the new raw water lines to the existing water service of CSA7. The project would call the 4-inch treated water pipe, **Alignment A**, and the 3-inch raw water pipe, **Alignment C**.

The northern terminus of Alignment A would be located on Memory Lane in La Honda, California (CA). Alignment A would move east on Memory Lane, before reaching State Route (SR) 84. On SR-84, Alignment A would move south and would approach a La Honda Creek bridge crossing. In order to avoid impacts to La Honda Creek, the applicant would create a shallow trench and install the pipeline underneath the creek. After passing La Honda Creek, Alignment A would move south on SR-84 before branching in two different directions. Alignment A would 1) move southeast on Pescadero Road and 2) would continue southwest on SR-84. The alignment moving southeast would terminate on Pescadero Road. The branch moving southwest would continue on SR-84 before approaching another segment of La Honda Creek. In order to avoid impacts to La Honda Creek, the pipeline would be hung underneath an existing Caltrans bridge. After crossing La Honda Creek, Alignment A would continue on SR-84 before moving south on La Honda Road. The southern terminus of Alignment A would be located on 7940 La Honda Road.

The northern terminus of Alignment C would be located on Memory Lane in La Honda, CA. Alignment C would follow the same path as Alignment A, moving east on Memory Lane before reaching SR-84. On SR-84, Alignment C would move south and approach La Honda Creek bridge crossing. Similar to Alignment A, in order to avoid impacts to La Honda Creek, the applicant would create a shallow trench and install the pipeline underneath the creek. After passing La Honda Creek, Alignment C would move south on SR-84 before turning southeast on Pescadero Road. The southern terminus of Alignment C would be located on Pescadero Road.

The proposed well would be at the northern terminus of Alignment C, on Memory Lane.

## PREVIOUS STUDIES

An Environmental Due Diligence Technical Memorandum were developed as part of the overall project design.

An Environmental Due Diligence Technical Memorandum was prepared by HELIX Environmental Planning (Appendix A). HELIX reviewed the proposed project alignment, analyzed the appropriate CEQA permit requirements, and assessed streams, wetlands, and riparian areas that might be affected by the pipeline alignments. Additionally, HELIX confirmed several federal and state listed species of special concern were present on the project site. HELIX requested that the construction and placement of Alignment A and Alignment C would primarily be within roadways. By staying within roadways, Alignment A and Alignment C of the proposed project would stay away from environmentally sensitive areas and would not impact any significant biological resource.

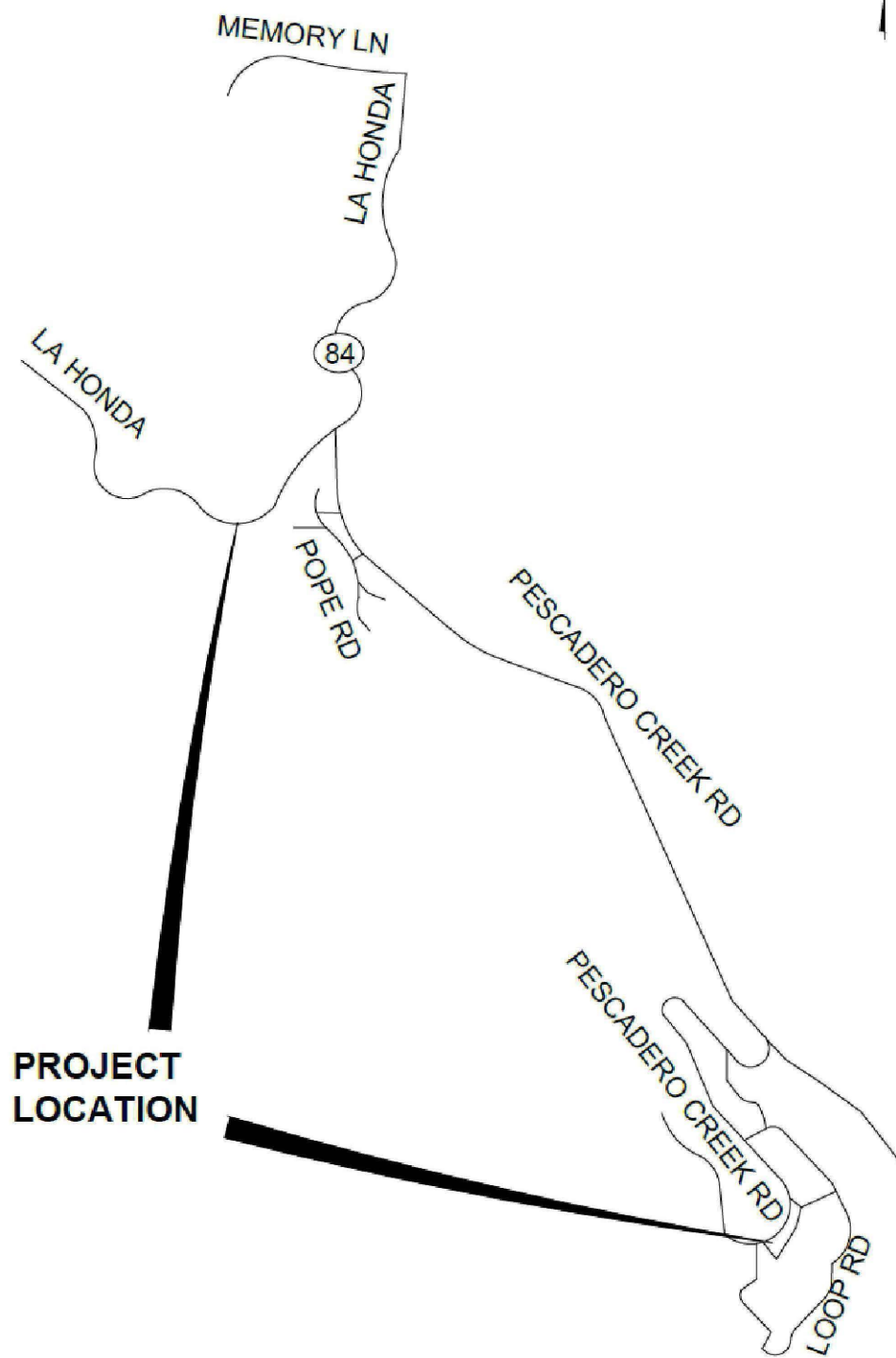
A Geotechnical Report was also prepared by BAJADA Geosciences, Inc. BAJADA recommended that the pipeline alignment be placed as far away from the descending slopes to avoid creep and settlement of

fill material. It was noted that given the existing bridge crossings in the project area are made of older concrete with shallow foundations, it was expected that hanging a pipeline on the bridge would involve less risks and would not compromise structure integrity of the road or bridge. BAJADA Geosciences, Inc. outlined that other trenchless alternative, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), has the potential to impact the integrity of structures such as bridge crossings.

## **REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

The CSA7 Water System Distribution Pipeline Improvements Project was designed to avoid direct and indirect impacts to the environment. The project involves the rehabilitation of an existing water service through a minor land alternation and would not trigger California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. The new pipeline alignment would be constructed to provide additional fire support and to account for the water system redundancy. The project would install a treated water pipeline and raw water pipeline, as well as a raw water well, to provide additional services to the existing water system. As mentioned in Appendix A, Alignment A and Alignment C would be designed and constructed to avoid environmentally sensitive areas. The project design would place the pipeline mainly within roadways, and as far away as possible from environmentally sensitive areas within the project site. Additionally, Alignment A and Alignment C would avoid using HDD, which has the potential to compromise structure integrity. The proposed project would cross La Honda Creek through pipe hanging and shallow trenching. The overall design of the project and the analyses in Appendix A ensures the project would avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas within the project site and would be exempt from CEQA review.





FILENAME: \\DPW.SANMATEOCOUNTY.ADS\DATA\USERS\UTILITY\WATER\CSA-7\PROJECTS\CSA 7 WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM\04 DESIGN (01 05-06 08-09)\LOCATION MAP\VICINITY MAP.DWG



DESIGNED BY: MW  
 CHECKED BY: TD  
 DRAWN BY: MW

County Service Area No.7 Water System Distribution Pipeline  
 Improvements Project

**LOCATION MAP**

SCALE: NTS  
 DATE: 04/22/2026  
 FILE NO: 1/E5032

TORY NEWMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 SAN MATEO COUNTY

555 COUNTY CENTER, 5TH FLOOR  
 REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94063-1665