

**FILED**

**May 11, 2026**

KRISTIN B. CONNELLY  
CLERK-RECORDER

By 

D. Gonzalez  
Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Contra Costa County  
County Recorder  
555 Escobar Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

**FROM:** Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)  
P.O. Box H2O  
Concord, CA 94524  
925-688-8000  
Lead Agency/Project Applicant  
Filing Agency

**PROJECT TITLE:** Los Vaqueros Dam Intake Gates Rehabilitation Project – Phase 1

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Los Vaqueros Dam Intake Gates Rehabilitation Project (Project) is located at the dam intake gates of Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) Los Vaqueros Reservoir in unincorporated eastern Contra Costa County. See Figure 1 for a Project vicinity map and Figure 2 for a Project location map.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Los Vaqueros Dam intake structure contains five intake gates which are opened or closed based on a range of factors such as reservoir elevation and water quality. Gate 5 was partially rehabilitated in 2018 and is currently at full operational status. The remaining gates are not currently in use for regular operations due to abnormal hydraulic system pressure readings and the potential for hydraulic oil leakage. The purpose of this Project is to inspect and assess the condition of Gates 1 through 5 at the Los Vaqueros Dam intake and make necessary repairs, including the replacement of hydraulic cylinders at three of the gates. This work is necessary to return the intake gates to full operational status and fulfill California Department of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requirements for normal and emergency operations.

Under Phase 1 of the Project, the hydraulic cylinders at Gates 1, 2, and 3 will be removed and refurbished or replaced. The cylinders will be removed from the dam gates and brought to the surface by divers, where a barge-mounted crane will lift them onto a paved staging area adjacent to the reservoir (see Figure 2). The cylinders will be inspected and either refurbished or replaced with new cylinders depending on their condition. The refurbished or replacement cylinders will be reinstalled using the barge-mounted crane and divers and will subsequently undergo operational testing. Hydraulic power unit components will also be evaluated and repaired during this process. In addition, CCWD will conduct a detailed inspection of all dam gates and associated components to identify necessary future repairs. Any remaining deficiencies identified during this Phase 1 inspection will be repaired under Phase 2 of the Project.

May 8, 2026

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Construction will start in June 2026 and may last for up to 1 year depending on gate conditions. Equipment laydown and vehicle staging will occur on the paved access road adjacent to the Los Vaqueros Dam and Reservoir (see Figure 2). The following types of equipment are anticipated to be present at the Project site: crew trucks, a barge-mounted crane, diving equipment, etc.

All work will occur on CCWD property within paved access roads of the dam and water of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. No ground disturbance or alterations to the bed or bank of the reservoir will occur. No vegetation disturbance or tree removal will occur. The reservoir is stocked with non-native fish for recreational fishing and does not contain any native fish species. Oil spill prevention and containment measures will be in place, including the deployment of oil booms and a spill plan. The Project will not result in ground disturbance and will not adversely affect natural resources or areas of cultural or historic resources.

CCWD will use the following standard CCWD Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the environment:

1. Trash - All trash will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of on a daily basis.
2. Construction Materials - CCWD will ensure that all raw construction materials, wastes, temporary fences, barriers, and/or flagging are removed and properly disposed of from the Project area immediately following the completion of construction.
3. Spill Prevention - A spill prevention, containment and cleanup plan will be developed and maintained for this project. Additional oil spill prevention and containment measures, including oil booms, will be deployed at the project site.

**AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:** Contra Costa Water District

**AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** Contra Costa Water District

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** This project is exempt under Class 2, Section 15302 (c), “replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity”. This project is also exempt under Class 1, Section 15301 (b), as it involves the repair and maintenance of an existing facility owned by a public utility.

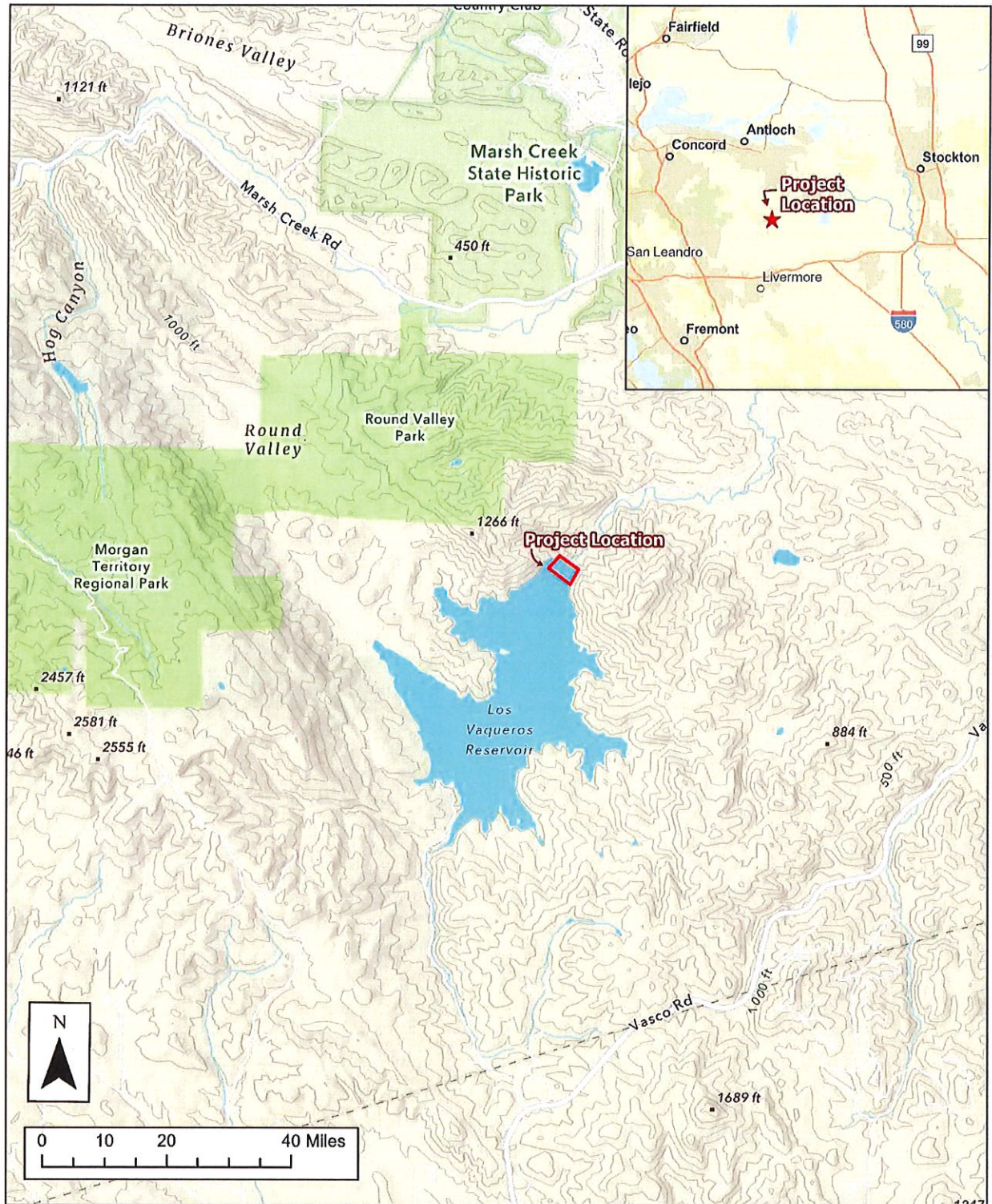
**CONTACT PERSON:** Cody Ericksen, Associate Planner, (925) 688-8223

**SIGNATURE:** Cody Ericksen

**DATE:** 5/8/2026

May 8, 2026

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Los Vaqueros Dam Intake Gates Rehabilitation Project – Phase 1



**Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map**  
Los Vaqueros Dam Intake Gates Rehabilitation Phase 1 Project

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**Figure 2. Project Location Map**  
Los Vaqueros Dam Intake Gates Rehabilitation Project



Kristin B. Connelly  
Contra Costa  
Clerk-Recorder  
555 Escobar Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
(925) 335-7900

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Public

Finalization No.: 202600047302

Cashier: dgonzalez

Register: WINDOW6

Date/Time: 05/11/2026 11:26 AM

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fee</u>
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION	
Filing Time:	11:26 AM
Filing Total:	\$50.00
Filing Fee:	\$50.00
<hr/>	
Total Amount Due:	\$50.00
<hr/>	
Total Paid	
Credit Card Tendered:	\$50.00
#1111	
Amount Due:	\$0.00

THANK YOU  
PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE

