

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From (Public Agency): California Department of Water
Resources –
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Online posting

Project Title: City of Coalinga Continuous GPS (CGPS) and Monitoring Well Installation
Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Location - Specific: The CGPS is approximately 0.48 miles west and approximately 50 feet north of the South Alpine Avenue/Lost Hills Road (Hwy 33) and Firestone Road intersection within Fresno County.

Project Location - City: Coalinga, California

Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

In 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law requiring local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater in their service area that necessitates the development of an adequate network of appropriately spaced groundwater monitoring wells. With secured funding, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has established the Technical Support Services (TSS) program to help GSAs meet their SGMA requirements by providing services to install groundwater monitoring wells, conduct downhole video logging, and training on methods to accurately monitor groundwater levels.

The CGPS installation consists of installing a single CGPS station. The CGPS station will continuously measure the three-dimensional position at the site with the focus of monitoring for vertical movement, also known as land subsidence. A total area of 20' x 40' for equipment with a 50' x 50' staging area for vehicles and equipment is needed. The drilled holes will penetrate approximately 35' into the subsurface where stainless pipe is lowered and then grout is pumped through the legs to anchor the monument. The total height of the CGPS station equipment is approximately 6' tall.

The Well Installation Project consists of installing a single, nested groundwater monitoring well. The well site location is TBD but will be marked by Underground Service Alert, then hand tools will be used to excavate to a minimum depth of 5'. The driller will use a truck-mounted drill rig to drill a pilot hole while using a mud cleaner to filter out solids and return drilling mud to the drill bit. When the pilot hole is at the desired depth, the driller will expand the borehole to a diameter of approximately 14". The nested well will consist of two or three PVC casings, and the base of each well, from the bottom up, will consist of sand, a filter pack, and a bentonite seal. Cement will be pumped from the support truck to place the sanitary seal in accordance with state and county requirements. A raised well monument and concrete pad approximately four square feet and four inches tall with four approximately 4-foot-high metal crash posts will be installed at ground level to protect the well from potential damage, or the well will be installed in a flush-mounted vault in accordance with county road ordinance. DWR or GSA staff may visit the well on a quarterly schedule to collect data. Operation and maintenance will be minimal and may consist of periodic servicing of equipment and replacing batteries as needed. Access to the well location will be by existing paved and dirt roads.

Once installed, this facility will become part of the GSA's monitoring program.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268); Click or tap here to enter text.
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); Click or tap here to enter text.
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)); Click or tap here to enter text.

☒Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15306. Information Collection

☐Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Reasons why project is exempt:

Work activities will consist of installation of a CGPS and a groundwater monitoring well. Project activities are covered under Categorical Exemption Class 6 Section 15306 (Data Collection) of the California Environmental Quality Act. No sensitive biological or cultural resources have been identified in the area.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tad Bedegrew

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 425-4394

1. Signature: Tad Bedegrew Date: 7/9/2026 Title: Sr. Engineering Geologist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

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: _____