

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: Calero Valve Yard Geotechnical Borings and Utility Potholing

Project Location—Specific: Calero Reservoir

Project Location-City: San Jose

Project Location-County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: The purpose of the proposed project is to 1) collect geotechnical information to support the design for the construction of a sheet pile wall for flood protection around the Calero Valve Yard, and 2) pothole to locate existing underground utilities.

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 [§21080(b)(1); 15268];
- ☐ Declared Emergency [§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
- ☐ Emergency Project [§21080(b)(c); 15269(b)(c)];
- ☒ Categorical Exemptions [§15304, Minor Alterations to Land, §15306 Information Collection]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15304 and §15306:

“Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.”

“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 Class 4 exemption applies because the proposed project consists of minor alterations to land to complete geotechnical borings and potholes and would not involve the removal of any healthy, mature, scenic trees. The Class 6 exemption applies because the proposed project consists of basic data collection activities for information-gathering purposes which, as demonstrated by the below project description, would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Furthermore, none of the exceptions to the use of a Categorical Exemption noted under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 would apply.

Description of Project: The proposed project involves two components: 1) collecting geotechnical information to support the design for the construction of a sheet pile wall for flood protection around the Calero Valve Yard, and 2) potholing to locate existing underground utilities. Both the geotechnical and potholing activities are needed to inform the final design of the future Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (CDSRP). The geotechnical activities would include drilling three borings utilizing a truck mounted drill rig via hollow stem augering methods and

excavating an approximately 100-foot trench along the boring alignment. Borings would be drilled up to 25-feet deep and would be backfilled with cement bentonite grout mixture per Valley Water Well Ordinance Program standards. Potholing activities would involve excavating approximately four potholes utilizing a hydrovac truck along a portion of the Almaden Valley Pipeline near Calero Reservoir. The potholes are needed to establish the configuration of the pipeline's concrete encasement to inform relocation of an existing valve vault box to occur as part of CDSRP. All excavated areas would be backfilled with native, excavated material and compacted. In total, approximately 1500 square feet of ruderal vegetation would be disturbed for the geotechnical and potholing activities. Overall, activities would take approximately six days to complete.

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Abby Annicchiarico

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(408) 630-2456

Signature:  DocuSigned by:
Abby Annicchiarico
ED3B15962C914E0

Date: 8/3/2026

Title: Associate Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record