NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 – 10th Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Office of Facility Planning, Construction and Management
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95827

PROJECT TITLE: Valley State Prison & Central California Women's Facility New Potable Water Wells

PROJECT LOCATION(S): 21633 Avenue 24 and 23770 Road 22, Chowchilla CA 93610

Description Of Nature, Purpose, And Beneficiaries of Project: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will design and construct two new groundwater wells to supply adequate amounts of potable water for the incarcerated population and staff at Valley State Prison (VSP) & Central California Women's Facility (CCWF). The volume of the aquifer at both VSP and CCWF have dropped an average of 10 feet per year due to the overuse of the aquifer in the area and years of drought. Based on the age and unreliability of all the wells and less than optimum production of the two fully operational wells (wells 401 and 403), combined with the continued decline in water levels, two additional wells are needed to meet Section 64554 of the California Water Code and SWRCB requirements at VSP. The additional wells requested will also allow the institution to perform regular maintenance and to provide more operational reliability in case of future well failures, all while meeting the Maximum Daily Demand requirement.

Work will be performed within the already developed prison property within a highly disturbed undeveloped agricultural field. Both locations are not within environmentally sensitive areas.

Name Of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Name Of Person Or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Facility Planning, Construction, and Management, 9838 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA 95827

EXEMPT STATUS:

_____	Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
_____	Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
_____	Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
X	Categorical Exemption Class 1, CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Exiting Facilities)

Reason Why Project Is Exempt: The projects are categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR §15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because they have negligible to no expansion of use. The project site is located within a previously disturbed area that is not considered environmentally or historically sensitive. This is one of a class of projects that the Secretary for Resources has found do not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore is declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for preparing an environmental document.

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