

Public Notice Notice of Exemption



To: County of Santa Clara
Clerk-Recorder's Office
110 West Tasman Dr, 1st Floor
San Jose CA 95134

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118-3686
Telephone (408) 265-2600

Project Title: San Pedro Ponds Pipeline Installation Project

Project Location—Specific: San Pedro Percolation Ponds, San Pedro Avenue and Hill Road, Santa Clara County

Project Location-City: N/A - unincorporated

Project Location-County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: The project is needed to maximize groundwater recharge at the San Pedro Ponds, provide a new storm drain connection between the San Pedro Ponds and Madrone Channel, and protect Ponds 3 and 7 from bank erosion at the outfall structures.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Valley Water

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Valley Water

Exempt Status: (*check one*)

- ☐ Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 21080(b)(c)];
- ☒ Categorical Exemption [§15301: Class 1, Existing Facilities and §15302: Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions [*State code number*].

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project qualifies for the Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction) Categorical Exemptions because the project involves minor alteration of an existing public facility with no expansion of existing or former use, and the replacement of an existing HDPE aboveground pipeline with an underground HDPE pipeline at the same site. None of the exceptions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 that would prevent the project from being exempt apply.

Description of Project: The San Pedro Ponds are used to percolate imported Central Valley Project water from San Luis Reservoir into the Llagas Groundwater Subbasin. Due to shallow groundwater conditions, Valley Water is unable to operate the San Pedro Ponds at full capacity without adversely affecting nearby residential septic systems. A recent field investigation concluded that only Ponds 1, 3,

and 7 should be used for groundwater recharge to ensure the nearby residential septic systems are not adversely affected.

The project would underground 2,200 linear feet of existing aboveground 12-inch-diameter HDPE pipe, thereby allowing Valley Water to recharge Ponds 1, 3, and 7 without filling the other ponds, connect the San Pedro Ponds to the Madrone Channel by installing approximately 450 linear feet of new 12-inch-diameter HDPE pipeline and connecting it to an existing storm drain manhole, and protect Ponds 3 and 7 from erosion by installing new energy dissipation vaults and rock slope protection outfall structures.

All ground disturbance, construction, staging, and stockpiling would occur on Valley Water fee title property within the 38.4-acre San Pedro Ponds site. The project is expected to take three weeks to complete.

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Kelly White

Area Code/Telephone/Extension
 (408) 630-2840

Signed by:

 Signature: _____
 Title: Gregory Williams
 Deputy Operating Officer
 Raw Water Division

Date: 6/17/2026

cc: CEQA Administrative Record