

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: Tree Removal in Kirk Diversion Dam Vegetation Management Area

Project Location - Specific: The project is located on Los Gatos Creek (station 361+40 to 360+40) in Los Gatos Creek County Park, just upstream of the Oka and Camden Groundwater Percolation Ponds.

Center coordinates: 37.260611, -121.957105

Project Location - City: Los Gatos

Project Location - County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: To re-establish the clear zone below the dam; prevent damage to the inflatable dam from fallen trees, provide access to the area below the dam for maintenance; prevent flow obstructions and alteration of flow patterns in the low-flow channel downstream of the dam; and allow for visual inspection and camera surveillance of the inflatable dam and its appurtenances from downstream areas.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District (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]
- ☐ Statutory Exemption

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project qualifies for a Class 1 (Existing Facilities) Categorical Exemption because the project involves maintenance of an existing public facility with no expansion of existing or former use. None of the applicable exceptions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 that would prevent the project from being exempt apply.

Description of Project: Valley Water proposes to remove approximately 30 live standing, live fallen, dead/dying standing, and dead fallen native, non-native, and invasive trees from the Kirk Diversion Dam Vegetation Management Area. Equipment would enter the Los Gatos Creek channel below Kirk Diversion Dam from the right bank. A temporary access ramp over the low flow channel would provide equipment access to the left bank. Depending on groundwater conditions during construction, temporary sump pumps and hoses may be used to maintain a dry work area on either side of the low flow channel. Water pumped out of the work area would be released back to Los Gatos Creek approximately 20 feet downstream of the Kirk Dam Vegetation Management Area. Trees would be removed using traditional climbing techniques. Valley Water Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Valley Habitat Plan Aquatic Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Aquatic AMMs) have been incorporated into the project. The BMPs and Aquatic AMMs would protect riparian and aquatic

habitat and prevent sedimentation and degradation of water quality in Los Gatos Creek. The project is anticipated to take 3 weeks to complete.

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

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

Signature: Kelly C White

Date: 9/28/26

Title: Kelly White
Associate Environmental Planner
Utility Planning and FAHCE Support Unit

cc: California State Clearinghouse (CEQAnet)
CEQA Administrative Record