

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: Los Gatos Stream Gauge 5119 Modification Project

Project Location - Specific: The project is located on Los Gatos Creek (station 350+50 to 352+85) in Los Gatos Creek County Park, approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the Kirk Diversion Dam, between the Oka and Camden Groundwater Percolation Ponds.

Center coordinates: 37.262053, -121.954360

Project Location - City: Los Gatos

Project Location - County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: Improve the accuracy of the stream gauge that is used to measure instream bypass flows at the Kirk Diversion Dam required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Long-Term Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) for the Kirk Diversion Operation and Maintenance Project (Notification No. 1600-2018-0386) to support downstream aquatic habitat.

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 minor alteration 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: Gauge 5119 is located below a pedestrian bridge and on top of a concrete drop structure on Los Gatos Creek. The existing concrete drop structure is 53 feet long, extends 100 feet across the entire width of Los Gatos Creek, and serves as the weir for Gauge 5119. Flow over the top of the drop structure occurs as shallow sheet flow, and the Gauge 5119 flow readings correlate to the depth of the water on top of the concrete drop structure. Due to the shallow depth of water on top of the concrete drop structure, minor variations in stage (i.e., water surface elevation) result in large changes in flow readings, adversely affecting the accuracy of the flow measurements.

Valley Water proposes installing a 1-foot-tall, 3/8-inch-thick steel weir plate over the top of the existing concrete drop structure. A v-notch in the center of the weir plate would concentrate low flows and produce larger changes in water depth for small variations in flow. This modification would improve the resolution and accuracy of the low flow measurements at Gauge 5119.

A weir box would be affixed to the upstream face of the drop structure at the center of the weir. The weir box would provide hydrographers with a suitable cross section to take accurate discharge measurements for calibrating the stream gauge while reducing field safety hazards and streamlining data collection. A bubbler-type, differential pressure stream gauge enclosed in 1.5-inch-diameter galvanized pipe conduit would extend from the new gauge to an enclosed gauge house with a data logger above the right top of bank immediately upstream of the drop structure. Solar panels mounted on top of the enclosure would power the system.

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