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**Notice of Exemption**

**TO:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**FROM:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170
Sacramento, CA 95821
Jordan Robbins, (916) 524-3454
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**Project Title:** Minor Alteration No. WA2026132 – Upper Elkhorn Basin Geotechnical Investigation Project

**Project Applicant:** Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA); Dan Tibbits; Principal Engineer/Project Manager; 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814; tibbittsd@saccounty.gov; (916) 205-6258

**Lead Agency:** Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA); Jason Campbell; Deputy Executive Director; 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814; info@safca.org; (916) 874-3140

**Agency/Person Carrying Out Project:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Project Location**: The project is located near the Fremont Weir in various spots along the Reclamation District No. 1600 (RD1600) Unit No. 01 Sacramento River levee and the Sacramento Maintenance Yard – East Levee Yolo Bypass (ST0004) Unit No. 01 Yolo Bypass levee, centered at approximate coordinates 38.764641°N, 121.635406°W, in Yolo County.

**Project Description**: To perform geotechnical explorations within the Upper Elkhorn Basin that will assist in composing the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study, a feasibility study assessing the economic justification to widen the Yolo Bypass in the Upper Elkhorn Basin and extend the Fremont Weir to improve flood flow conveyance in the bypass system. will include one test pit, six borings, and ten cone penetration tests (CPTs). The test pit will be approximately three feet wide, eight feet long, and excavated to a depth of approximately eight to ten feet using a track backhoe with a 24-inch bucket and then backfilled by tamping the excavated soil as backfill in approximately 12-inch lifts. The borings will be advanced to depths of approximately 100 feet below the ground surface using truck or track-mounted drill rigs equipped with hollow stem auger and mud rotary (HSA/MR) capabilities. Soil samples will be collected from the borings by driving either a 1.5-inch inner diameter Standard Penetration Test sampler or a 2.5-inch inner diameter California split-spoon sampler 18 inches into undisturbed soil. The CPTs will be conducted by hydraulically advancing an instrumented steel cone into the ground using truck-mounted and/or track-mounted compact CTP rigs. Each CPT will include at least one pore pressure dissipation test to measure the porewater pressure in the aquifer to estimate the groundwater level. The upper five feet of all borings and CPTs will be excavated using hand sampling equipment. Upon completion, all boreholes and CPTs will be backfilled using neat cement grout with bentonite, with the top two feet being backfilled using native material and restoring the project site to pre-project conditions.

**Public Agency Approving Project**: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

**Exempt Status**:

☒ Categorical Exemption: Sec. 15306 & 15304

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The Board has determined that the project activities within the Board's authority are exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Class 6 (Information Collection) categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306). The project qualifies for this exemption because it involves information collection, research, or resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Board has determined that the project activities within the Board's authority are also exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304). The project qualifies for this exemption because it involves minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Board further finds that none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15300.2 apply.

Chris Lief 10/12/2026

Signature Chris Lief, Executive Officer Date

☒ Signed by Public Agency ☐ Signed by Responsible Agency