

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

RECEIVED

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 2024 SEP 11 A 9:51

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: NA

Case No.: NA

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: USGS Cooperative Stream and Groundwater Monitoring Program

Project Description: This Joint Funding program between the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) provides for a cooperative and cost sharing water resources data collecting program in Santa Barbara County. Streamflow measurements throughout the County are monitored in accordance with this program which has been in effect for decades. The data collected is used for a myriad of purposes including facilities design, flood warning, climate studies, hydrologic modeling and reservoir operations studies among other purposes.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the United States Geological Survey

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory Exemption
- ☒ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The USGS Cooperative Monitoring Program provides information and data regarding surface water throughout the County. Such data may be used to protect natural resources and the environment. The program results in no recommendations regarding future actions or policies and the County has not approved, adopted, or funded any future actions as a result of the program. The

program does not result in a serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource. Therefore, the above listed exemption applies to this action.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The program utilizes gages previously installed or existing stream flow monitoring stations. Therefore, the program results in no physical disturbance to the environment. The installation of monitoring wells by the USGS is categorically exempt from CEQA requirements as defined by Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15306 which addresses basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts for the Cooperative Monitoring Program. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program is for informational purposes only and will have no significant effect on the environment. All wells and gaging stations necessary for the study have been previously installed or are pre-existing. Therefore, there is no reasonable possibility that the program will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited

to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program does not result in the installation of any facilities that are viewable from any scenic highway area. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable.

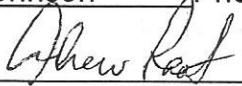
- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program is not located on a Hazardous Waste site. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program will not result in any structural or physical changes that would impact any historical resources. Therefore, this exception to the exemption does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shawn Johnson Phone #: 805 568-3440

Department/Division Representative:  Date: 8-6-2024

NOTE: A copy of this document must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.



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COUNTY
one
FUTURE

2024 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) or Notice of Exemption.

A scanned copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Receipt, Transmittal Memorandum and the CEQA filing including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Contact Person Andrew Raaf	Phone 805-568-3445		
Lead Agency Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	Lead Agency Email asraaf@countyofsb.org		
Project Title USGS Cooperative Stream Gauge Monitoring Program FY 2024-25			
Project Applicant Shawn Johnson	Email sjohnso@countyofsb.org	Phone (805) 568-3452	
Project Applicant Address 130 E. Victoria Street, STE 200	City Santa Barbara	State CA	Zip 93101

DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- ☐ Notice of Determination - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ☐ 2024 Filing Fee\$4,051.25
- ☐ Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
- ☐ No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00

Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:

- ☐ This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- ☐ Notice of Determination - Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).....
- ☐ 2024 Filing Fee \$2,916.75
- ☐ Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
- ☐ No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00

Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:

- ☐ This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- ☒ Notice of Exemption.....\$0.00

- ☒ County Administrative Handling Fee (required for all filings, effective 7/19/18)\$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- ☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Journal Entry # _____
- In person only In FIN send to 'COB CEQA' in CEO Dept

Journal Entry

Document Number: JE - 0270491
Document Description: CEQA FEE-JOINT FUNDING AGR
Post On: 8/14/2024

Batch ID: 2937171
Created On: 8/14/2024 9:07:53 AM
Processed On:
Created By: Cindy Gonzalez
Processed By:

References

Audit Trail: Cash Type: I - Interfund

Accounting

Fund	Dept	GL Acct	LI Acct	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Prog	QUnit	Proj	Act	Area	Equip	Depositor	Description
2400	054	2810	7546	50.00		3006							CEQA-JOINT FUNDING AGR WIUSGS STREAM GAUGI FY24-25
2400		0110			50.00								CEQA-JOINT FUNDING AGR WIUSGS STREAM GAUGI FY24-25
0001		0110		50.00									CEQA-JOINT FUNDING AGR WIUSGS STREAM GAUGI FY24-25
0001	012	2710	5746		50.00	4020							CEQA-JOINT FUNDING AGR WIUSGS STREAM GAUGI FY24-25
Total				100.00	100.00								

Signatures

Signed By	Approval Level	Department/Agency-Fund Group	Signed On	Valid
Cindy Gonzalez		054-Public Works	8/14/2024 9:16:46 AM	Y



County of Santa Barbara, FIN

Printed: 8/14/2024 9:16:54 AM



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

Signature

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

42 — 09/11/2024 — 231

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SB County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL asraaf@countyofsb.org	DATE 09/11/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Barbara	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
PROJECT TITLE		

USGS Cooperative Stream Gauge Monitoring Program FY 2024-25

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Shawn Johnson	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL sjohnso@countyofsb.org	PHONE NUMBER (805) 568-3452
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 130 E. Victoria Street, STE 200	CITY Santa Barbara	STATE CA
	ZIP CODE 93101	
PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)		
☒ Local Public Agency	☐ School District	☐ Other Special District
☐ State Agency	☐ Private Entity	

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,051.25	\$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,916.75	\$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$	0.00

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X Katherine Douglas	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Katherine Douglas, Deputy Clerk
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