

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk County of: Santa Cruz
County Government Center
701 Ocean Street, Rm. 310
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From (Public Agency):
San Lorenzo Valley Water District
13060 Highway 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Project Title: Critical Water Infrastructure Protection and Wildfire Management Ingress/Egress Improvement Project

Project Applicant: San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD)

Project Location – Specific: SLVWD-owned lands and easements

Project Location – City:
Communities within the SLVWD sphere of influence

Project Location – County:
Santa Cruz County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to reduce or maintain the lowered fuel loads, increase fire resiliency, and help reduce wildfire impacts to critical water infrastructure. The proposed defensible space treatments around water infrastructure would increase defensibility and reduce risk of loss during a wildfire. In the event of a wildfire, critical water infrastructure facilities serving a population of over 26,000 would be protected by the proposed defensible space treatments. The proposed roadside and property boundary fuel reduction adjacent to residential areas would increase defensibility, and provide fuelbreaks to help facilitate emergency access and suppression actions should a wildfire ignite.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304(i). Minor alterations to land for fuel management activities.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 Minor Alteration to Land and Section 15301, Class 1, for Existing Facilities. A Class 4 exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the

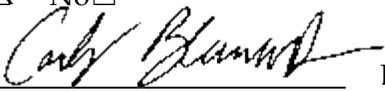
condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. A Class 1 exempt project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The project would involve vegetation reduction activities through the vegetation clearance and removal up to 100 feet around critical water infrastructure on SLVWD-owned and managed lands and 100 feet on either side of SLVWD-owned roadways. The scope of the project is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation around and maintenance of these existing facilities and roadways. Additionally, no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed; no work would take place within sensitive habitat, including wetlands or waterways, that would constitute habitat alteration; and no ground disturbance, such as excavation, would take place. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person:
Carly Blanchard

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:
831.430.4804

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
Yes No

Signature:  Date: 8/18/21 Title: Environmental Programs Manager

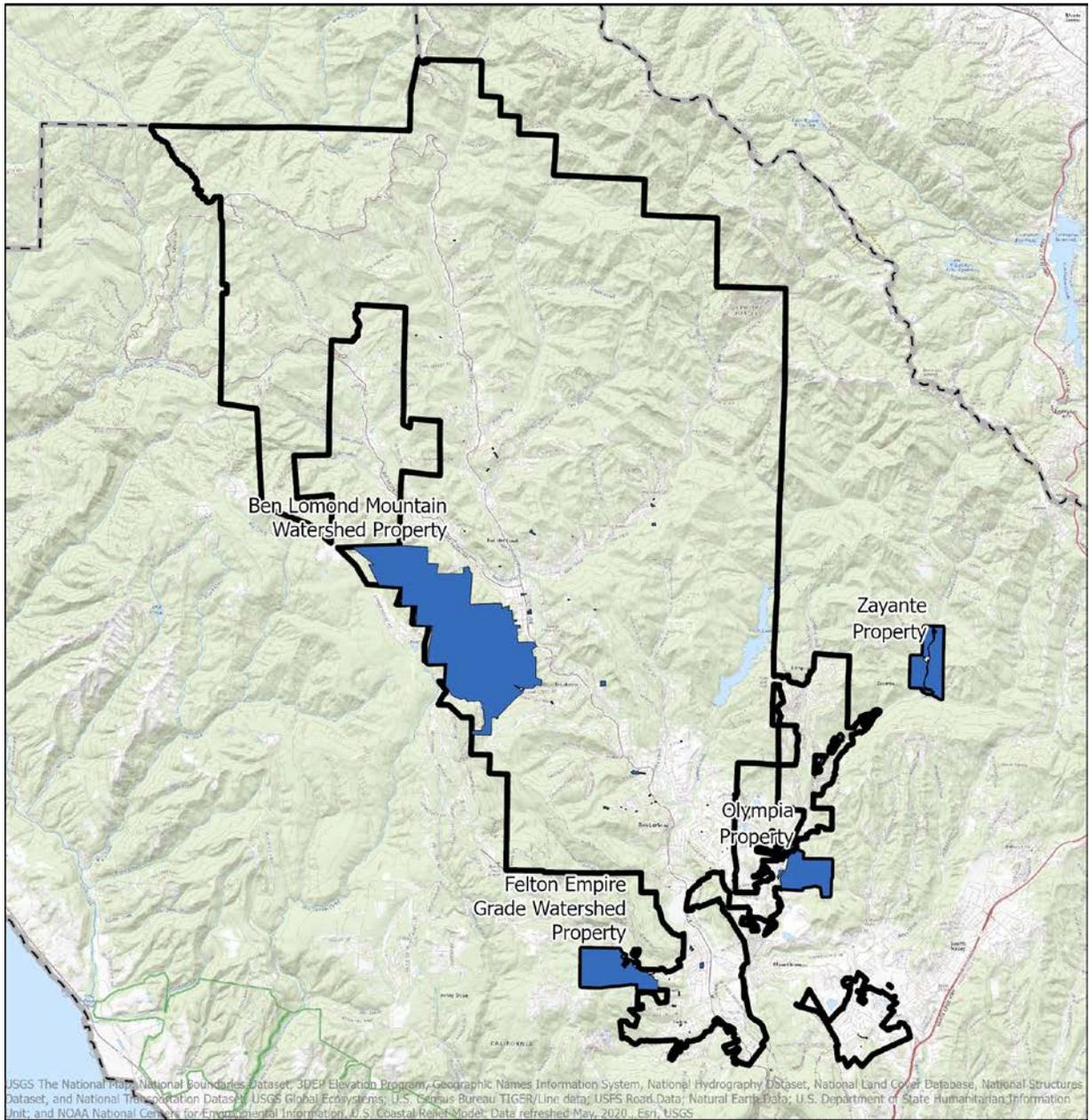
Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:
8/19/21

Figure 1 SLVWD Treatment Locations



USGS The National Map, National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Init; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed May, 2020. Esri, USGS

Map Produced by Spatial Informatics Group on 4/30/2021

-  SLVWD Property
-  SLVWD Service Area
-  Santa Cruz County Boundary



NO PART OF THIS DOCUMENT MAY BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM INCLUDING PHOTOCOPY, RECORDING OR ANY INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND STORAGE SYSTEM, WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM SLVWD.