

2019038572

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research,
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of San Diego

From:

State of California Department of Water
Resources
770 Fairmont Ave
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Project Title: San Luis Rey River Stream Gage Bubbler Installation and Operation Project

Project Applicant: State of California Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific:

The San Luis Rey River is located about 38 miles north of San Diego, CA and drains approximately 560 square miles. The river's headwaters are in the Palomar Mountain Range and Cleveland National Forest, near Palomar Mountain and the Santa Rosa Mountains. Elevations in the watershed range from sea level in Oceanside to over 4,300 feet at the headwaters. Principle tributaries include Buena Vista Creek, West fork San Luis Rey River and Paradise Creek and Pauma Creek. There is little water in the river during most of the year, but it can have very large flows during winter storms. Average annual precipitation in San Luis Rey River basin ranges from about 10 to 45 inches in coastal region and the mountainous areas respectively with majority of the precipitation occurring during the months from November to February with snow occurring in the higher elevations

. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' quadrangle, the legal description is Township 10S, Range 1W (33° 18'48.40"N 117° 00'04.40"W). The proposed site location is the San Luis Rey River just south of Cole Grade Road in Pauma Valley at the concrete crossing across the river channel that connects the Pauma Valley Air Park parking lot to the runway.

The gaging station would contain monitoring equipment housed in a 30in. x 30in. x 10in. steel National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) box on the on the east bank of the channel. The box would be mounted on two 2 in. diameter galvanized iron pipes embedded in a hole approximately 8 inches in diameter by 2 feet deep, filled with concrete. A satellite antenna, transmitter and solar panels would be attached to the NEMA box. The stream gage sensor would consist of a conduit bubbler connected from the NEMA box to a low point in the channel. The conduit path will not cut across any vegetation, as it will stay on the concrete portions of the area. No flora exists in this concrete apron.

Projection Location – City: Pauma Valley

Project Location – County: San Diego

2019038572

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Under the hydrological collection objective of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will deploy a network of stream gages in high and medium priority groundwater basins to reduce data gaps in the existing stream gage network. The enhanced network would provide essential data to improve water management- including groundwater recharge, and to protect fish and wildlife. San Luis Rey River is in the medium priority San Luis Rey Valley Basin (9-007). The project consists of installation of a NEMA Box, which houses the Data Collection Platform (DCP) to store/upload the data, electrical components to power the station and the conduit which contains the bubbler line and sensor that is attached to the existing concrete crossing across San Luis Rey River and generates a steady pressure of air bubbles which is used to calculate the stream height when surface water is flowing. The installation will take no more than a few days and will be minimally intrusive and will not result in impacts to habitats and/or wildlife. During the first few months after installation, DWR will check on the performance on the bubbler in the field. After verifying that the bubbler is operating correctly, only occasional maintenance is required every three to six months. Foot traffic for installation, performance audits, and maintenance will also be minimally intrusive and not result in impacts to habitats and/or wildlife.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State of California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: State of California Department of Water Resources

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption. 15306. Information Collection

Reason why project is exempt: The proposed activities will take place exclusively on developed portions of the Pauma Valley Air Park parking lot near the crossing that connects the parking lot to the air park runway. No heavy equipment will be utilized, and ground disturbance will be minimal. Impacts to plants, wildlife, or cultural resources will be minimal. There will be no removal of vegetation or sediment or any other work in San Luis Rey River or any other jurisdictional waters, and therefore no regulatory permits will be required.

A list of special status plant and wildlife species with the potential to occur within the project area has been compiled based on a literature search and California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Field surveys were conducted to identify potential biological resources within the project vicinity.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to occur
Anaxyrus californicus	Arroyo Toad	Endangered	Endangered	Unlikely. Habitat is unsuitable. Constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.

2019038572

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to occur
Rana draytonii	California red legged frog	Threatened	None	Unlikely. Habitat is unsuitable. Constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
Poliopitila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	Threatened	None	Unlikely. No nesting areas and constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
Brodiaea filifolia	Thread-leaved brodiaea	Threatened	Endangered	Unlikely. No nearby populations observed. Soil is unsuitable for this species.
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern willow flycatcher	Endangered	Endangered	Unlikely. No nesting areas and constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's Vireo	Endangered	Endangered	Unlikely. No nesting areas and constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's Hawk	None	Threatened	Unlikely. No nesting areas and constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.

Best Management Practices:

1. No vegetation will be removed as part of the project.
2. No heavy equipment will be used as part of the proposed activities
3. No work will take place within the flowing channel of San Luis Rey River.
4. Excavated material will not be removed from San Luis Rey River.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Albert Lu

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (818) 549-2330

If filed by applicant:

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

Signature: Thang Nguyen Date: 3/22/2019 Title: Chief, Southern Region Office

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
 Revised 2011
 MAR 25 2019
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

2019038572

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE