

## Notice of Exemption

To:

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

County Clerk  
County of Ventura

From:

**2019058287**

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

**Project Title:** Las Posas Valley Stream Gage Bubbler Installation and Operation Project

**Project Applicant:** State of California Department of Water Resources

**Project Location - Specific:**

The proposed Las Posas Valley stream gaging station is located just downstream of the New Los Angeles Avenue bridge crossing the Arroyo Simi Creek in the city of Moorpark. The Arroyo Simi originates at Corriganville Park by the Santa Susana Pass, and streams westwards into Moorpark where it merges with Arroyo Las Posas by Hitch Road. It extends for 12 miles through the Simi Valley, and leaves the city limits by Oak Park at the western end Simi Valley, and continues for seven miles in Moorpark. It is a tributary to the Calleguas Creek, which enters the Pacific Ocean by its estuary at Mugu Lagoon by Naval Air Station Point Mugu. Besides an arroyo, it has been described as a channel, waterway, river, drain, wash, and stream. Arroyo Simi drains an area of 117 square miles in southern Ventura County. In its natural state, it is an ephemeral creek, which is only seasonally filled during winter time and periods of heavy rain. Today it is, for the most part, a concrete lined water drain that flows year round. Tributaries to the Arroyo Simi includes Aaamos Canyon-, Sycamore-, Dry Canyon-, Tapo Canyon-, Las Llajas Canyon-, White Oak-, Runkle Canyon-, and Bus Canyon Creeks, as well as the Erringer Road and North Simi Drains.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' quadrangle, the legal description is Township 2N, Range 20W (34°16'42.05"N 118°52'18.63"W).

The gaging station will consist of monitoring equipment housed in a 30in. x 30in. x 10in. steel NEMA box on the right bank of the channel. The box is 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 are attached to the NEMA box as shown in the Design Plan diagram for a bubbler station. A conduit will run from the NEMA box to the low point in the channel at the existing weir site.

**Projection Location – City:** Moorpark

**Projection Location – County:** Ventura

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Under the hydrological data 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. The Arroyo Simi in Moorpark is in the high priority Las Posas Valley Basin (4-008). The project consists of installation of a NEMA Box, which houses the Data Collection Platform (DCP) to store/transmit 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 weir across the Arroyo Creek 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. After installation, staff will visit the site after storm events to take depth and flow measurements necessary to develop a rating curve. DWR staff will operate and maintain the gaging station, visiting the site for routine maintenance and repairs and to download data manually for verification purposes, up to six times in a year. The data collected from the station will be available publicly through the California Data Exchange (CDEC) and the Water Data Library and shared with local agency partners if requested.

**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 on developed portions of the concrete drainage. The conduit may lay across a mixture of invasive *Bromes* and *Pennisetums* (Fountain Grasses) and some typical wetland/riparian plants like *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat). The installation of the stream gage will not significantly disturb the local ecology. 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 Arroyo Simi 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 (CNDDDB). Field surveys were conducted to identify potential biological resources within the project vicinity.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to occur
<i>Dudleya parva</i>	Conejo dudleya	Threatened	None	Not present. No individuals were recorded at this site during surveying.

2019058287

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to occur
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Coastal California gnatcatcher	Threatened	None	Unlikely. No nesting areas and constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow	None	Threatened	Unlikely. Constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	Lyon's Pentachaeta	Endangered	Endangered	Not present. No individuals were recorded at this site during surveying.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	Endangered	Endangered	Not present. No individuals were recorded at this site during surveying.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's Vireo	Endangered	Endangered	Unlikely. No nesting areas and constant traffic and noise is a deterrent.
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Riverside Fairy Shrimp	Endangered	None	Unlikely. The site is too far from the documented sites it has been recorded at.

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 Arroyo Simi Creek.
4. Excavated material will not be removed from Arroyo Simi Creek.

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

2019058287

Signature: Thierry Nze Date: 5/14/2019 Title: CHIEF SOUTHERN REGION OFFICE

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

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.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
MAY 23 2019  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE