
**CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION
OF EXEMPTION/EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Project Title: Butano State Park Streamflow Enhancement Project

Project Location: The project site is located in Butano State Park approximately 4.5 miles south of the town of Pescadero, CA. This project will involve drilling of a domestic well which will occupy a 40 ft. by 60 ft. pad (area of impact) approximately 700 ft. west of the park entrance kiosk. Geographic coordinates of the project are 37.20116 N, -122.3422 W.

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 089-090-030

City and County: Unincorporated, San Mateo County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The San Mateo Resources Conservation District (RCD), in partnership with California State Parks (CSP) is proposing to install a new permanent domestic well at Butano State Park. The RCD has applied for funding for this project through the Wildlife Conservation Board Proposition 1 grant.

Currently, Butano State Park relies on surface water from Little Butano Creek to supply all water related infrastructure and user demand. This project would allow for increased water security, especially in years of drought, by adding an additional water source. To ensure this project will not impact stream flow in Little Butano Creek, the RCD worked with Balance Hydrologics and SRT Consultants (project engineers) to produce a study that reviewed the geology and ground water characteristics at the site. Based on the study findings, the proximity of the proposed domestic well will not impact creek flows in Little Butano Creek. This project does not include the pumping or filtration infrastructure associated with well development, only the drilling and casing of the well hole. If the well is not viable the hole will be filled and abandoned.

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project:

San Mateo Resource Conservation District
Jarrad Fisher
80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption, Class 3 [CEQA State Guidelines, Sections 15303, 15304]

REMARKS: See next page.

Contact Person: Jarrad Fisher Telephone: (650) 712-7765x114

September 13, 2019

Date of Determination:

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.

cc:



Jarrad Fisher, Senior Project Manager

REMARKS:

The project will improve water security and for Butano State Parks domestic water system. The following provides a brief description of the project, and an explanation for why the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from CEQA under Class 33 (15303, 15304).

Project Description

This project will install a new permanent well at Butano State Park. The RCD and Balance Hydrologics, in partnership with Maggioras Bros Drilling, completed an exploratory well bore at Butano State Park in 2018 to test for viable drinking water sites. The ground water exploration yielded positive results for a productive well.

All construction activities would occur entirely within the existing exploratory well footprint (0.1 acres) including the access route, staging area and drill pad footprint a 20 ft. x 20 ft. pad around the well hole.

Prior to the start of drilling, a pad will be constructed that is 60 ft. x 40 ft. to accommodate drilling equipment. Vehicles will include, drill rig, backhoe, 40-foot support trailer and crew trucks. If mud is needed during drilling, then a 30-ft. shaker with mud tank will be used. The drilling contractor will provide all road signs during drilling to instruct visitors to the park away from the drilling site.

Vegetation at the well consists of yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), a native species that can grow in disturbed areas. Coastal scrub species in the vicinity include coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Non-native grasses in the area include wild oat (*Avena* spp), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*) and Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*). Vegetation in the 60x40ft construction area will be removed as needed for construction of the well. The disturbed area will be seeded with the appropriate seed mix to ensure vegetation reestablishes.

Class 3: (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15303)

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel. Examples of this exemption include, but are not limited to:

- (a) One single-family residence, or a second dwelling unit in a residential zone. In urbanized areas, up to three single-family residences may be constructed or converted under this exemption.
- (b) A duplex or similar multi-family residential structure, totaling no more than four dwelling units. In urbanized areas, this exemption applies to apartments, duplexes and similar structures designed for not more than six dwelling units.
- (c) A store, motel, office, restaurant or similar structure not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances, and not exceeding 2500 square feet in floor area. In urbanized areas, the exemption also applies to up to four such commercial buildings not exceeding 10,000 square feet in floor area on sites zoned for such use if not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances where all necessary public services and facilities are available and the surrounding area is not environmentally sensitive.
- (d) Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.
- (e) Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.

(f) An accessory steam sterilization unit for the treatment of medical waste at a facility occupied by a medical waste generator, provided that the unit is installed and operated in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act (Section 117600, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code) and accepts no offsite waste.

This project is consistent with example (d). The project will construct a new small facility in the form of a domestic drinking water well. The permanent area of impact for the well installation will be a 20 x 20 foot pad encompassing the well bore location and will include an access road that is approximately 80 ft. long x 10 ft. wide.

Class 4 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15304)

Class 4 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. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist.
- (b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping.
- (c) Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site;
- (d) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production;
- (e) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including carnivals, sales of Christmas trees, etc;
- (f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored;
- (g) Maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies;
- (h) The creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way.
- (i) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.

This project is consistent with example (a) and (d) of Class 4. Grading for the project will take place on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, and will not take place in a waterway, wetland, officially designated scenic area, or in an officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard. The project consists of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which does not include the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.