

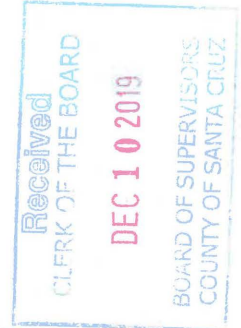
# 2019120347

# 306-19

## CITY OF SANTA CRUZ Notice of Exemption

To: ☒ Clerk of the Board  
County of Santa Cruz  
Governmental Center  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

☐ Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**From:** City of Santa Cruz Water Department, 212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Project Title:** City of Santa Cruz Riverbank Filtration Study

**Project Address:**

Three general locations (the City's Tait Well parcel, east of the City Metro Station, and Santa Cruz Memorial) along both sides of the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz, as shown on the attached figure referred to as **Plate 1**. These locations are within the water rights of Tait Diversion.

**Assessor's Parcel No(s):**

**Tait Wells:**

060-192-06 (1 newly proposed monitoring well)  
060-192-21 (existing well)  
Unassigned APN areas (3 newly proposed monitoring wells)

**Coast Pump Station**

008-032-01 (existing well)

**Santa Cruz Memorial:**

008-031-16 (3 newly proposed monitoring wells)

**Staging/Access:**

008-032-07  
008-012-07  
San Lorenzo River (monitoring stations)

**City of:** Santa Cruz

**County of:** Santa Cruz

**Project Description:** The City of Santa Cruz (City) Water Department is considering to further develop riverbank filtration (RBF) operations at the San Lorenzo River to augment existing surface diversions for the benefit of improved water quality, and reliability of water supply. In doing so, the City is proposing to conduct an RBF study to investigate hydrogeologic conditions within the alluvial aquifer along the San Lorenzo River at three general locations (Plate 1); the City's Tait Well parcel, east of the Santa Cruz Metro Station, and Santa Cruz Memorial. Additionally, the project would include work along and within the San Lorenzo River. Proposed work would include the construction of new monitoring wells, installation of temporary monitoring stations within the San Lorenzo River, and geophysical surveys. In addition to these new project components existing wells would be utilized to collect data. Work would also be occurring in areas with no assigned parcel data along and within the San Lorenzo River. The City has coordinated with property owners and intends to notify land owners in advance of access, or initiating work activities. Data collected would be used in a feasibility screening of locations, methodology, and design for the City's potential future development of RBF on the San Lorenzo River to augment existing surface water diversions for the benefit of improved intake water quality. The proposed RBF study would consist of the following field activities:

1. **Geophysical Surveys** – Geophysical surveys consisting of electrical resistivity, electromagnetic, and/or seismic methods would be completed using handheld, non-invasive equipment at selected locations from those defined above. These surveys would, (1) evaluate the interface between alluvial deposits and underlying bedrock; (2) assess thickness and composition of alluvial deposits; and (3) assess the depth to underlying bedrock. Riparian vegetation would be avoided to the greatest extent possible; however some activity might cross the tree dripline. More specifically, the proposed geophysical transect paralleling the San Lorenzo River and the Santa Cruz Metro Station may encounter 0.01 acres of willows that were mapped during a 2019 site visit. In the event that these willows cannot be avoided, they would be trimmed to ground level, leaving root intact, to facilitate regrowth post project, but still allow for temporary access during the geophysical surveys. No permanent impacts are expected to result from geophysical surveys.
2. **Soil Borings and Groundwater Monitoring Wells** –To evaluate hydrogeologic characteristics of the alluvial deposits, the City would select locations (where conditions allow) for construction of test borings and observation/monitoring wells within selected locations from those defined above. These test borings and well locations would be designed to characterize the spatial distribution of hydrogeologic properties, groundwater level, and water quality conditions. Test borings and groundwater monitoring wells would be installed using either rotary vibratory (sonic) or hollow-stem auger drilling methods to provide continuous core samples. Based upon available data, it is estimated that the depth of the soil borings and groundwater monitoring wells would range from approximately 65 to 100 feet below ground surface. Following the completion of soil borings, the borehole would either be sealed to the surface with bentonite or neat cement grout, or (at selected locations) completed as a groundwater monitoring well. If completed as a groundwater monitoring well, a permanent casing including a lockable cap would be installed. If conditions allow, groundwater monitor wells may be completed as permanent wells by the addition of a monument and lockable cap. Otherwise, the well will be decommissioned by sealing of the borehole/casing to the ground surface with a bentonite slurry or neat cement grout, emplaced by use of tremie pipe after proposed monitoring is complete and the site restored to its previous conditions. All borings and monitoring wells would be located outside of the riparian corridor.
3. **Aquifer Tests** – Aquifer tests would be performed to incorporate pumping at the existing Tait Street Wells (1B, 3B, and 4) Aquifer testing would, (1) evaluate induced infiltration rates of surface water from the San Lorenzo River to the alluvial aquifer due to groundwater withdrawal; (2) evaluate RBF processes to provide effective pretreatment of surface water at the San Lorenzo River in relation to ground water under the direct influence; and (3) assist in the evaluation of potential RBF alternatives for feasibility screening.
4. **Installation of Mini-piezometers, Staff Gauges, and Seepage Meters** – To evaluate the interaction between surface water of the San Lorenzo River with groundwater of the alluvial aquifer, temporary mini-piezometers would be installed along the San Lorenzo River. A mini-piezometer consists of 1-inch-nominal-diameter PVC or steel casing (pipe) in lengths that range from approximately 1 to 5 feet, with an approximate 0.5-foot bottom slotted (well) screen. The mini-piezometers would be installed by setting (i.e., physically hand-driving with a slide hammer or portable pneumatic vibratory hammer) the casings below the riverbed to approximate depths of

1, 3, and 5 feet. To facilitate installation and for safety reasons, a small tripod or section of scaffolding may need to be temporarily staged in the San Lorenzo River. Because of the sensitive nature of these temporary monitoring devices and data to be collected, the installations are to be completed with minimal disturbance to the riverbed. To facilitate data collection, each mini-piezometer would be equipped with a portable sensor within the casing to record water levels and water temperature.

Stream staff gages would be installed at each mini-piezometer location to collect surface water stage elevation and water temperature data within the San Lorenzo River. These temporary, hand installed staff gages would consist of aluminum or fiberglass gages with a graduated reference index, and would be removed following completion of monitoring efforts.

Additionally, temporary seepage meters may be installed to collect direct measurements of water seepage across the sediment-water interface of the riverbed. These temporary seepage meters consist of a PVC or steel, inverted drum-top or bucket that is pushed by hand several inches into the sediment of the riverbed.

Following up to 4 weeks of data collection, the mini-piezometers, staff gauges, and seepage meters would be removed from the riverbed by hand.

The city will obtain necessary permits prior to installing the mini-piezometers, staff gauges, seepage meters, or performing work within the streams.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Santa Cruz Water Department

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** City of Santa Cruz

**Exempt Status: (check one)**

- ☐ Ministerial Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(1); 14 Cal Code Regs §15268).
- ☒ Categorically Exempt (14 Cal Code Regs §15306).
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(3); 14 Cal Code Regs §15269(a)).
- ☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); 14 Cal Code Regs §15269(b)(c)).
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (Code/Section NA).
- ☐ The project clearly will not have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal Code Regs §15061(b)(3)).

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines §15306 for scientific data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance of an environmental resource. The proposed activities consist of conducting

minor vegetation clearing, geophysical surveys, hydrogeologic exploration, soil borings, construction of groundwater monitoring wells, and the installation of mini-piezometers, staff gauges, and seepage meters for the purpose of data collection and feasibility assessment. In addition, no exceptions to Categorical Exemptions (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2) would apply to the project. Additionally, the project is not barred by the exceptions for taking a Categorical Exemption (14 Cal Code Regs §15300.2):

- Although the RBF study sites are within and adjacent to the San Lorenzo River and associated riparian habitat, no permanent impacts on riparian vegetation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdictional features, or special-status species would occur. Riparian vegetation would be avoided to the greatest extent possible; however some activity might cross the tree dripline. The proposed geophysical transect paralleling the Santa Cruz Metro Station may encounter 0.01 acres of mapped willows. In the event that these willows cannot be avoided, they would be trimmed to ground level, leaving root intact, to facilitate regrowth post project. All borings and monitoring wells would be located outside of the riparian corridor. Additionally, the installation of mini-piezometers, stream staff gauges, and seepage meters would be minimally invasive and temporary in nature, being removed following project completion.
- Although the RBF study sites are within and adjacent to the San Lorenzo River and associated riparian habitat, no permanent impacts on riparian vegetation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdictional features, or special-status species would occur.
- The RBF study would not result in a cumulative impact of successive projects over time because this study involves non-impactful and low impact activities. The Coast Pump Station Project involves site access and staging through both the Santa Cruz Metro Station and the Santa Cruz Memorial Site; however, no significant or cumulatively significant activities are anticipated. Both the RBF and Coast Pump Station projects are led by the City and project work will be coordinated appropriately.
- The study would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The mini-piezometers, staff gauges, and seepage meters are proposed to be installed in the river channel; however, as noted above, the installation of these devices is designed to be minimally impactful and temporary in nature, and would not result in serious or major disturbance to any environmental resources. The areas of vegetation clearance and minor grading necessary to facilitate the completion of geophysical surveys, soil borings, and groundwater monitoring wells, would be minimized to the greatest extent possible for the purpose of providing access and temporary work areas. Additionally, no significant impacts to cultural resources are expected as result of the RBF study due to unusual circumstances.
- The study would not damage scenic resources within a scenic highway. The site is not near or within the viewshed of a designated scenic highway.
- The study sites are not located on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (Cortese List), as verified on October 19, 2018.
- The study is not anticipated to cause an adverse change to a historical resource because work consists of non-invasive and minimally invasive groundwork and would be temporary in nature.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Heidi Luckenbach

**Phone:** (831) 420-5214

**Department:** City of Santa Cruz Water Department

**Address:** 212 Locust Street, Suite C  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Signature:** Heidi R Luckenbach

**Date:** 12/6/19

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

**Title:** Deputy Water Director/Engineering Manager

☐ Signed by Applicant

**Date Received for Filing at County Clerk:** Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Date Received for Filing at OPR:** DEC 12 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK  
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A  
PERIOD COMMENCING Dec -10 2019  
AND ENDING Jan -07 2020









State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2019 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
DFW 753.5a (REV. 12/01/18) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

Start Over

Finalize & Email

RECEIPT NUMBER:

44 — 12102019 — 330

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY

City of Santa Cruz Water Dept.

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.org

DATE

12102019

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

Santa Cruz

DOCUMENT NUMBER

306-19

PROJECT TITLE

City of Santa Cruz Riverbank Filtration Study

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

Heidi Luckenbach

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.org

PHONE NUMBER

(831) 420-5214

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

212 Locust St., Ste. C

CITY

Santa Cruz

STATE

CA

ZIP CODE

95060

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency

☐ School District

☐ Other Special District

☐ State Agency

☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,271.00	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,354.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,112.00	\$	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 \$ 0.00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☒ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Cheryl M. Williams, Senior Board Clerk



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2019 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
DFW 753.5a (REV. 12/01/18) Previously DFG 753.5a

**NOTICE**

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

**COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE**

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

**COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

**Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):**

- ☐ Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- ☐ Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- ☐ Mail filing fees for CRP document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- ☐ Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

**Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) (Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))**

- ☐ Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

**The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:**

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

**DOCUMENT RETENTION**

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

**RECEIPT NUMBER**

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

**DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.**

**Mail to:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Accounting Services Branch  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, California 94244-2090