

## Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Ventura

800 South Victoria Avenue

Ventura, CA 93009

**From:** (Public Agency): Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency  
202 West El Roblar Drive  
Ojai, California 93023

(Address)

**Project Title:** Stream Flow Depletion and Baseline Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction Monitoring of the Ventura River

**Project Applicant:** Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA)

**Project Location - Specific:**

The project consists of 17 groundwater monitoring well sites and two stream gauge sites generally located along the Upper Ventura River in the city of Ojai and unincorporated Ventura County.

**Project Location - City:** unincorporated **Project Location - County:** Ventura

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The proposed project would include the design, construction, and operation of up to 17 groundwater monitoring well clusters and three stream gauges. The proposed project would address significant and unreasonable depletion of interconnected surface water of the Ventura River within the Upper Ventura River Basin as provided for under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, particularly during dry weather conditions when surface water flow that is critical for maintaining essential aquatic habitat for special status species is dependent on groundwater discharge. The proposed project would be an initial step in implementation of UVRGA's forthcoming Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which is currently under development. The monitoring facilities and baseline monitoring will provide data to understand what actions in the region can address stream flows.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

**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));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 3 (15303), Class 4 (15304), Class 6 (15306)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed project would involve construction of a limited number of new monitoring wells and stream gauges. Monitoring wells would occupy approximately three square feet at the surface if vaulted individually or approximately 40 square feet at the surface if vaulted as a cluster. Stream gauges would consist of small segments of one-inch steel or PVC housing/standpipe. Therefore, these elements would be classified as small new equipment and facilities, and the Class 3 exemption is applicable. In addition, construction of the proposed project would consist only of minor public alterations in the condition of land and vegetation and would not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Therefore, the Class 4 exemption is applicable. Moreover, the proposed project would involve a monitoring well and stream gauge network to provide data to understand what actions in the region can enhance stream flows and to manage interconnected surface water depletion, evaluate stream flow conditions, and evaluate stream responses to enhancement efforts by all entities in the region. Furthermore, the proposed project would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Therefore, the Class 6 exemption is applicable.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Bryan Bondy **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 805-212-0484

**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:** 3/12/2021 **Title:** Executive Director

▪ **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: \_\_\_\_\_