



Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 County Clerk County of: Santa Cruz County Government Center 701 Ocean Street, Rm. 520 Santa Cruz, CA 95060	From (Public Agency): San Lorenzo Valley Water District 13060 Highway 9 Boulder Creek, CA 95006
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Project Title: 5-Mile Pipeline Shaded Fuel Break

Project Applicant: San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD)

Project Location – Specific: Approx ½ mile west of Hwy 9 in Boulder Creek

Project Location – City: <u>Boulder Creek (unincorporated)</u>	Project Location – County: <u>Santa Cruz County</u>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will create an approximately 2.2-mile shaded fuel break along SLVWD’s 5-Mile Pipeline and approximately 1 mile of shaded fuel break along Pipeline access roads. The Pipeline provides a critical fuel break location, directly protecting the community of Boulder Creek and the District’s Lyon Water Treatment Plant. The project will reduce fire hazards along the Pipeline and access roads, reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuel, improve ingress for emergency response services, improve retained tree health, and enhance resilience to future wildfire. Mechanical and manual treatment will increase the horizontal and vertical canopy separation. Nesting bird surveys will be performed if work is to be performed during nesting bird season. Biomass will be piled, chipped, and/or lopped and scattered to specifications. Following the initial treatment, maintenance of the shaded fuel break will be performed on a regular basis.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

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));
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304(i). Minor alterations to land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 Minor Alteration to Land. A Class 4 exempt project 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. The project would involve understory fuel management activities through vegetation clearance and removal up to 30 feet from the 5-Mile Pipeline and access roads. The project scope is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation around and maintenance of the Pipeline and access roads. The project will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters; and no ground disturbance, such as excavation, would take place. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply to the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Chris Klier

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

831.338.2153

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: *Chris Klier*

Date: 3/30/26

Title: Environmental Programs Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR:

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

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
 OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
 PERIOD COMMENCING 3/30 2026
 AND ENDING 5/4/ 2026

Figure 1 5-Mile Pipeline Shaded Fuel Break

