NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

☒ County Clerk
County of Contra Costa
555 Escobar St.
Martinez, CA 94553

FROM: Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Rocky Ridge Temporary Precipitation Forecasting System Project

Project Location- Specific: The project site is located at Rocky Ridge, off Bollinger Canyon Road, in Castro Valley, California (Figure 1).

Project Location – City: Castro Valley **Project Location – County:** Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) and several other agencies in the Bay Area have collaborated with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Colorado State University's Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, the United States Geological Survey - Pacific Coast and Marine Science Center, and the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, to develop a regional project called the "San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System" (AQPI Project). Its purpose is to provide early notification of more precise rainfall forecasting for atmospheric rivers, including location, intensity, and amounts, for the improved management of water supply reservoirs, the improved operations of combined sewer and wastewater systems, the improved operations of flood protection facilities, and numerous other benefits to flood control managers, emergency responders, transportation officials, and media outlets.

The Project consists of a sublease agreement and temporary placement, operation, and maintenance of a precipitation forecasting system at Rocky Ridge, off Bollinger Canyon Road, in Castro Valley, California, with American Towers, LLC. The precipitation information system will improve the region's early warning capabilities to avoid life-safety threats from potential land sliding, debris flows, flooding, erosion, road hazards or other fire related problems that could be compounded from heavy rain events. The temporary precipitation forecasting system also will give flood control managers, emergency responders, transportation officials, and media outlets more precise information on just where, when, and the intensity of expected rainfall.

Current use of the site is a telecommunications facility consisting of existing 200-foot-tall radio tower, several communication buildings, large generators, propane tanks, and multiple antennae. The site is closed to the public and enclosed by a barb wire topped chain link fence. The project would place a self-contained precipitation forecasting system on an existing concrete pad within the fence line. The system consists of an eight foot high by eight foot wide by ten foot tall shelter topped with a fully enclosed rotating antenna. The height of the antenna would be under 20 feet from ground level and would not adversely impact a scenic or historical resource.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project/Lead Agency: Sonoma County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project/Applicant: Sonoma County Water 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: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, 15306: Information Collection, and 15311: Accessory Structures
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: Entering the sublease agreement and temporary placement of a precipitation forecasting information system at Rocky Ridge would not impact a scenic or historical resource and because the Project consists of data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that would not degrade the quality of the environment and would not result in any significant or cumulative adverse effect upon the environment.

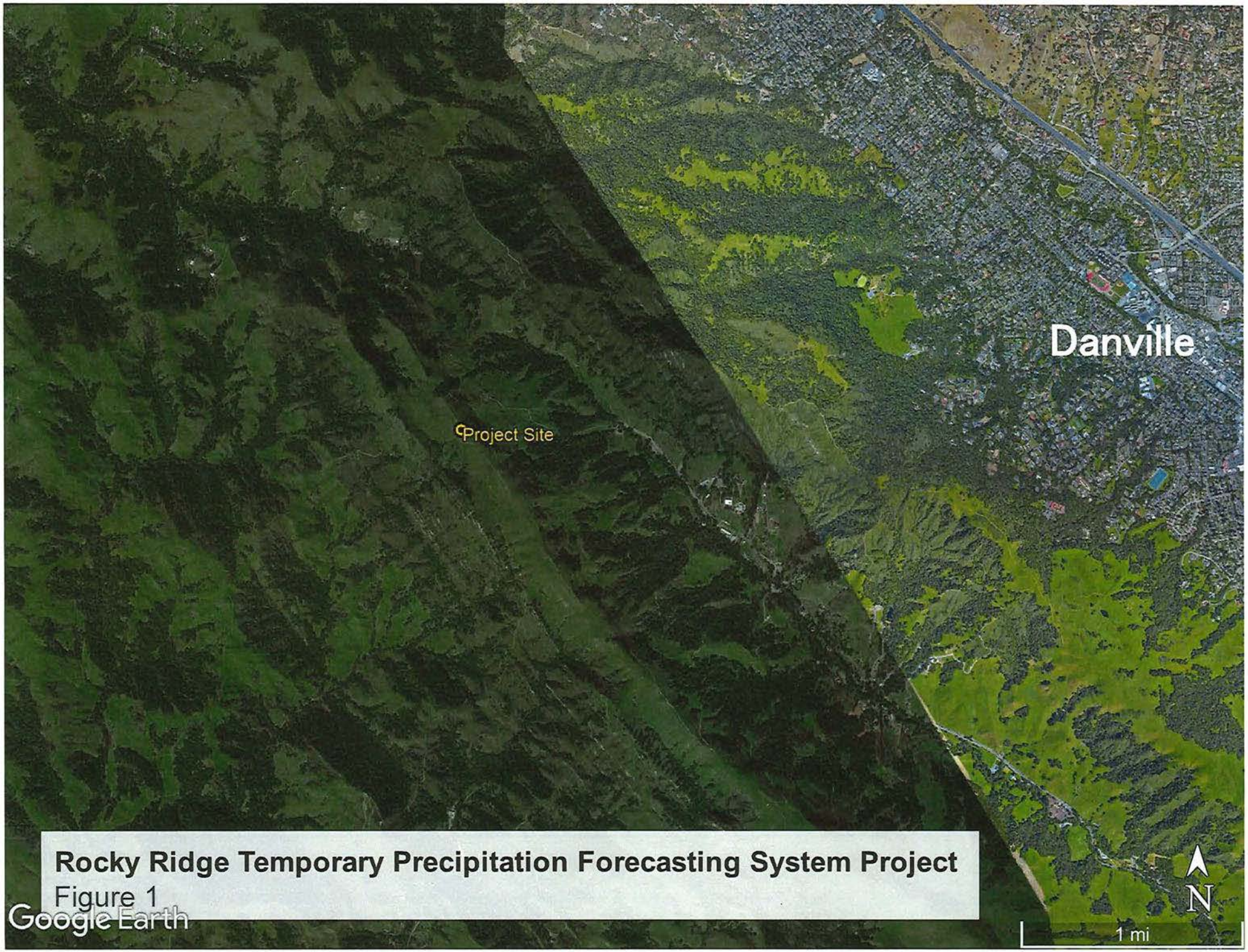
Lead Agency Contact Person: Connie Barton **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 707-547-1905

[redacted] General Manager April 20, 2021

Signature *Title* *Date*

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☒ Signed by Applicant Date received for filing at OPR:_____



Rocky Ridge Temporary Precipitation Forecasting System Project

Figure 1