

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: Riverside

From: (Public Agency): Calif Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Salton Sea North Lake Pilot Geotechnical Exploration Project

Project Applicant: Riverside County

Project Location - Specific:

North Shore area of the Salton Sea, approximately 1,000 ft west of Hwy 111, between Mecca Ave on the SE end of the site to north of Desert Beach, and south of 72nd Ave.

Project Location - City: North Shore Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The geotechnical site reconnaissance will include visual assessments related to geologic formations, structural features, physical constraints, site access, ground instability, surface drainage, and other significant engineering characteristics. Activities will include temporary disturbance primarily in unvegetated areas for access routes, 20 cone penetration tests (CPT), and 10 boreholes, with depth range 40' to 100' for each. Geotechnical information will be used in the design and construction of a demonstration pilot project on exposed Salton Sea lakebed consisting of 154 acres of shallow and deep-water fish and bird habitat. Measures to avoid impacts include retaining an on-site monitor for biological and cultural resources during all field activities. Spoils from boring test will be spread over unvegetated exposed lakebed. Boreholes will be refilled with natural material.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Natural Resources Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Riverside County

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: Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The use of on-site biological and cultural resources monitors during field activities would ensure no impacts to sensitive resources would occur, which is in compliance with CEQA Section 15300.2 (Exceptions). Therefore, the project is exempt under Section 15306 which allows for basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and which are undertaken for information gathering purposes.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Heather Leslie Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 695-0034

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: Heather Leslie Date: 10/6/2023 Title: Assistant General Counsel

- 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: _____