

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research PO Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812 – 3044 state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Clerk County of Los Angeles 12400 Imperial Highway Norwalk, CA 90650	From: Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu 900 S. Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803
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PROJECT TITLE: Encinal Canyon Water System Improvements Project

PROJECT APPLICANT: County of Los Angeles, Waterworks District 29, Malibu

PROJECT LOCATION – Specific: The Project site is within the City of Malibu in Los Angeles County. Access to the Project site is via Encinal Canyon Road from its intersection with State Route 1, Pacific Coast Highway. Project improvements include pipeline replacements located on multiple streets, including Encinal Canyon Road, Avenida Del Mar, Calle De La Burrita, Via Vienta, Vista De Los Ondas, Avenida De La Encinal, Camino De Buena Ventura, and Vista Del Preseas. See Figure 1, Project Location Map

PROJECT LOCATION – City: City of Malibu

PROJECT LOCATION – County: Los Angeles

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: On July 16, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu (WWD 29), took action to approve the delivery of a component of the Encinal Canyon Water System Improvements Project using a Board-approved Job Order Contract. A total of 18 properties in the Encinal Canyon neighborhood were damaged or destroyed by the Woolsey Fire. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution on December 4, 2018 that authorized the Department of Public Works to repair water supply facilities and construct new facilities in areas subjected to the Woolsey Fire in order to maintain and safeguard services essential to life, public health, safety and welfare. Domestic potable water demand and fire storage requirements, as well as general fire flow capacities need to be improved for the Encinal Canyon system to meet Los Angeles County Fire Department standards. As such, the WWD 29 has determined that the water infrastructure in the Encinal Canyon neighborhood is in critical need of replacement. The Project involves the replacement of 10,250 linear feet of existing 4-inch and 6-inch diameter pipe with new 8-inch and 12-inch diameter pipe along Encinal Canyon Road and surrounding streets. Because the Board found that immediate action is required to improve public infrastructure in areas affected by the Woolsey Fire, including water supply facilities, WWD 29 proposes to first replace approximately 4,475 feet of waterline and appurtenances in order to achieve a fire flow availability of 500 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch for those properties that currently do not meet this standard. These interim improvements of 4,475 feet of pipelines would begin in October 2019 and be completed by May 2020. The remaining 5,775 feet of pipeline replacement would be completed by April 2023.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on behalf of Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu

EXEMPT STATUS:


- 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: _____
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: See Attachment A, which is incorporated herein.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Eduardo Maguino **AREA CODE/TELEPHONE/EXTENSION:** (626) 300-3318

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: 7/16/19 Title: Senior Civil Engineer
 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.

ATTACHMENT A

Supporting Information for the Encinal Canyon Water System Improvements Project County of Los Angeles Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu

On July 16, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu, took action to approve the delivery of a component of the Encinal Canyon Water System Improvements Project using a Board-approved Job Order Contract. This action was specifically found to be exempt by the Board of Supervisors in the Motion approved on December 4, 2018. The County of Los Angeles has determined that the proposed Project meets the required criteria to be covered under Article 18, Statutory Exemptions, of the CEQA Guidelines (see CEQA Section 21080(b)(4), CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)(c) – Emergency Projects). The County Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution on December 4, 2018 to delegate authority to the Director of Public Works to order emergency work related to the Woolsey Fire. The Resolution authorized the Department of Public Works to immediately repair water supply facilities, among other measures to repair damages and construct new structures to maintain and safeguard services essential to life, public health, safety and welfare. A summary of the Resolution’s actions that are relevant to the proposed Project are stated below:

- The devastating Woolsey Fire, and the conditions created by it, constitute a sudden unexpected occurrence that pose a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent and mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property and essential public services. In this regard, the safety and security of people and property within the County of Los Angeles request that the Los Angeles County Public Works take immediate emergency action to mitigate and repair damage and risk caused by the Woolsey Fire.
- The Board delegated authority to the Director of Public Works to repair or replace any County highway, water supply, sewer or flood control facility, and take any direct related and immediate action required by the Woolsey Fire emergency.

The County has determined that for areas devastated by the Woolsey Fire, improvements to water infrastructure such as those proposed by the Encinal Canyon Water System Improvements Project, are emergency repairs to publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare.

The proposed Project involves specific water infrastructure improvements that are necessary to prevent and/or minimize an emergency. Fire emergencies can be prevented through the provision of adequately sized water infrastructure (i.e. tank storage capacity, pipeline capacity, fire hydrants) located in close proximity to vulnerable structures, which are specifically designed to address fire hazards in wildfire-prone areas. The proposed Project would ensure adequate system capacity to protect residential properties.

The Encinal Canyon community cannot rebuild and cannot begin to mitigate the Woolsey Fire emergency until adequate water infrastructure is available. The Fire Department has made interim provisions for the construction and occupancy of the newly constructed homes with the caveat that the entire system be upgraded to current Fire Department standards of 1,250 GPM at 20 PSI for a 1-hour duration standard by 2023. Mitigation for the Woolsey Fire in the Encinal Canyon community requires adequately designed, executed, and operated infrastructure to allow for rebuilding of destroyed properties and revegetation of properties to protect against erosion and mudslides.

Wildfires are a common occurrence within the City of Malibu and surrounding mountain areas, and there is a high probability of continued occurrence in the future. Reliable water sources meeting required fire flows is essential to firefighters for protecting life and structures. The proposed Project is a critical and necessary improvement that is required to address the highly likely future dangers associated with wildfire events that put life and property within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) at risk.

In summary, wildfires are included in the CEQA definition of emergency, as they are sudden, unexpected occurrences that involve a clear and imminent danger. The Board has approved a Resolution to facilitate the emergency work that is required to address the Woolsey Fire and the County is committed to taking immediate action to mitigate loss of and damage to property and essential public services from wildfire events by ensuring the provision of adequate water infrastructure to protect properties and structures in accordance with Fire Department and Fire Code requirements. The emergency need also relates to providing adequate water infrastructure to allow the devastated Encinal Canyon community to rebuild in a manner that is protective of life and property.

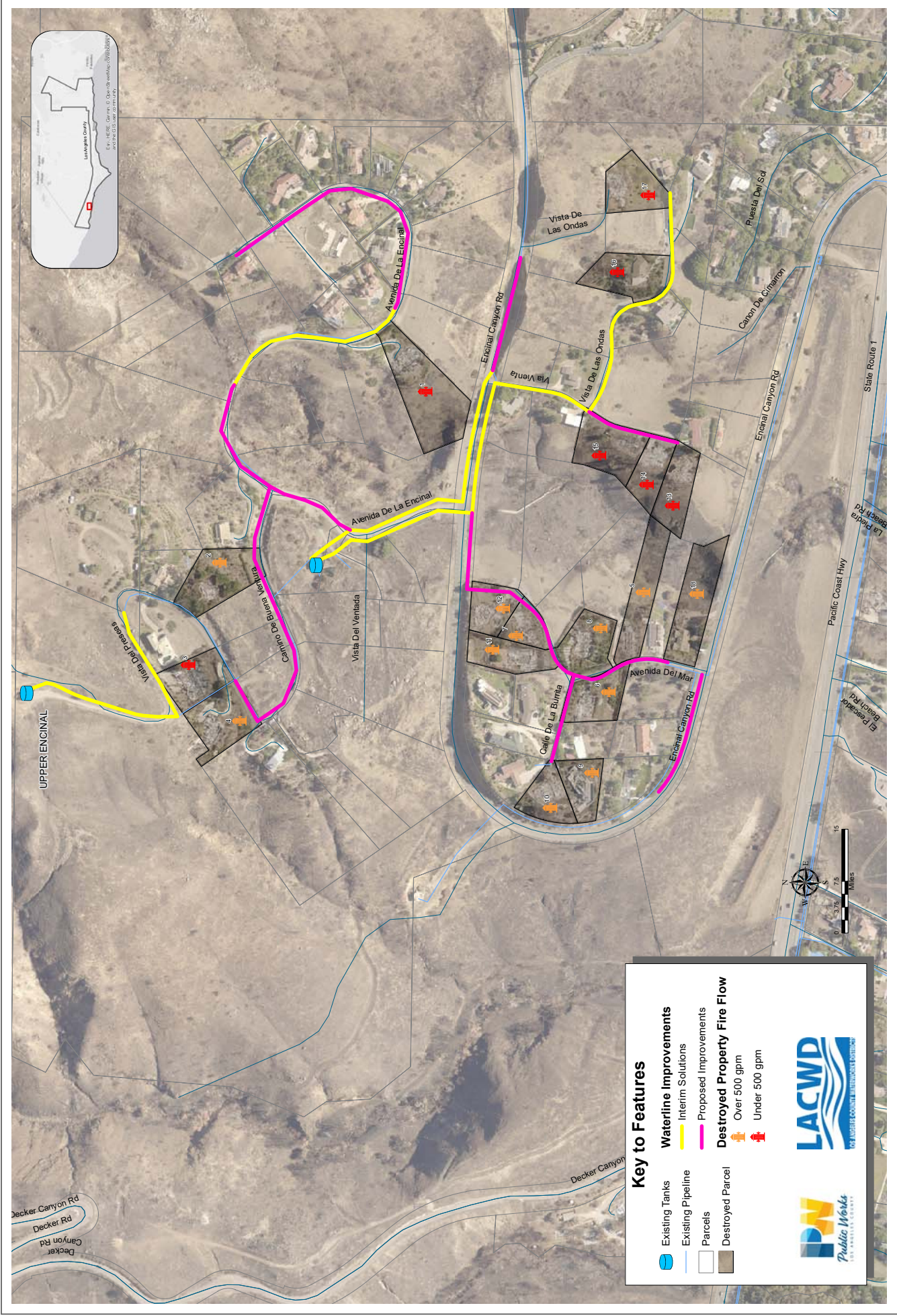


FIGURE 1
Project Location Map
Encinal Canyon Water Improvement Project