



**SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT
Notice of Exemption**

To:  Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT
31592 West Street
Laguna Beach CA 92651

 County Clerk Recorder
County of Orange
PO Box 238
Santa Ana CA 92702

Project Title: Reservoir 2C- Recoating, Minor Modifications, & Maintenance

Project Location – Specific: 32016 Isle Vista, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Project Location – City: Laguna Niguel, CA **Project Location – County:** Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

South Coast Water District (District) owns and operates Reservoir 2C located at 32016 Isle Vista, Laguna Niguel. Reservoir 2C is an aboveground steel welded tank. The project includes: removal and replacement of the existing interior lining and exterior coating; modifications to inlet and outlet piping; and, construction of seismic cross bracing roof rafters, sidewall manway access, and other features. The recoating, modifications, and maintenance work is scheduled for March 2020 through July 2020.

A paved driveway provides site access from Isla Vista into the paved area where Reservoir 2C is located. Project construction work will be within the fenced Reservoir 2C site and will not impact vehicle parking on Isla Vista. Project work hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, excepting legal holidays. Reservoir 2C will be taken out of service during the recoating, modifications, and maintenance project.

The maintenance staging area and parking for construction vehicles will be on-site and within the reservoir facility security fence.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: South Coast Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: South Coast Water District

Exempt Status (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 15073(b) and (c))
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: *Section 15301 (Class 1) categorically exempt replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. Section 15311 (Class 11) categorically exempt construction or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing facilities*

Reason why project is exempt: See Attachment A

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marc Serna, Chief Engineer

Area Code / Telephone / Extension: (949) 499-4555


Signature

9/18/19
Date

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Title: Chief Engineer

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

SEP 24 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment A Supplemental Information

Biological Resources and Habitat

Reservoir 2C is a steel tank structure that is located within a fenced, landscaped and paved site (Figure 1). Construction equipment and material storage will be located on pavement adjacent to Reservoir 2C. The project site is without native or natural vegetation and does not provide habitat for any sensitive species. No trees or vegetation would be removed for the project. Examination of the work area indicates there are no biological resources or habitat associated with the project that would require further environmental review.

Protection Measures

The project site is on level ground in a paved and fenced site with established drainage protection features. The project includes preparation of a storm water control plan with specifications and measures to avoid potential contamination of storm water runoff from the construction equipment laydown, storage, and work area. These measures include implementation of Best Management Practices to prevent polluted discharges from entering streets, gutters, or storm drains.

Land Use and Site Access

A paved driveway provides site access from Isla Vista into the paved area where Reservoir 2C is located. Project construction work will be conducted within the fenced Reservoir 2C site and will not impact vehicle parking on Isla Vista. Construction work will be temporary and there are no project activities that are incompatible with surrounding land uses.

Finding - CEQA (Exempt): The project is exempt from environmental review with the following findings:

- (a) CEQA Guidelines list classes of projects that have been determined to not have a significant effect on the environment and are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA.
 - Section 15301 (Class 1) categorically exempt operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The recoated reservoir, pipe modifications, and other improvements will not change the capacity or operation of Reservoir 2C in any way.
 - Section 15311 (Class 11) categorically exempt construction or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing facilities. The modifications to inlet and outlet piping and construction of seismic cross bracing roof rafters, sidewall manway access, and other features are all minor structures accessory to existing facilities.
- (b) The Reservoir 2C site is fenced and landscaped without natural or native vegetation that does not provide habitat for any sensitive species. The proposed project does not include any disturbance of the site landscaping or vegetation. No sensitive habitat or special status species would be adversely affected by the project.
- (c) Review by District staff indicates there are no unusual circumstances associated with the project or the property that would require further environmental review.

Site Photo



Figure 1. View of Reservoir 2C and paved project work area.