

**Notice of Exemption**

**FILED**

07/31/2020

Stephen L. Vagnini  
Monterey County Clerk-Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

2020-0060

To: County Clerk  
County of: Monterey

From: (Public Agency):  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
1441 Schilling Place, North Bldg, Salinas, CA 93901

Project Title: Protection of Domestic Drinking Water Supplies for the Lower Salinas Valley

Project Applicant: Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Project Location - Specific:

Well sites in Castroville, Marina, and Salinas, CA. This is within MCWRA Zone 2B.

Project Location - City: Unincorporated area Project Location - County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to destroy a minimum of 100 abandoned or inactive wells to eliminate conduits that are allowing for the vertical migration of seawater- and nitrate-contaminated groundwater into aquifers in the vicinity of wells that supply drinking water to Castroville, Marina, and Salinas, CA.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Brent Buche, General Manager

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 Guideline Sections 15307 and 15308
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project involves the destruction of existing wells in order to eliminate existing conduits for groundwater contamination, thus preventing future impacts. The project will temporarily use minor land area at each well site with negligible or no permanent effects on the environment. Each destroyed well will be backfilled to restore surface conditions. No unusual circumstances exist that would constitute an exception to the Categorical Exemptions.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Brent Buche, General Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-755-4860

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: 7/29/2020 Title: General Manager

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: \_\_\_\_\_



**Before the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency**

**County of Monterey, State of California**

BOARD ORDER No. 20-039

RECEIVE A REPORT ON FORMATION OF A TECHNICAL )  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE )  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD PROPOSITION )  
1 WELL DESTRUCTION GRANT; AND APPOINT PATRICK BREEN, )  
ERIC TYNAN, ROGER VAN HORN, TO-BE-NAMED STAKEHOLDER )  
X, AND TO-BE-NAMED STAKEHOLDER Y TO SERVE ON THE )  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF )  
THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD PROPOSITION )  
1 WELL DESTRUCTION GRANT; AND FIND THE WELL DESTRUCTION )  
WORK CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA )  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) UNDER TITLE 14 )  
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTIONS 15307 (PROTECTION )  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES) AND 15308 (PROTECTION OF )  
THE ENVIRONMENT) )

Upon motion of Director LeBarre, seconded by Director Gonzalez, and carried by those members present, the Board of Directors hereby:


1. Receive a report on formation of a Technical Advisory Committee for implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 1 Well Destruction Grant; and
2. Appoint Patrick Breen, Eric Tynan, Roger Van Horn, to-be-named Stakeholder X, and to-be-named Stakeholder Y to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee for implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 1 Well Destruction Grant; and
3. Find the well destruction work categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Title 14 California Code of Regulations sections 15307 (protection of natural resources) and 15308 (protection of the environment).

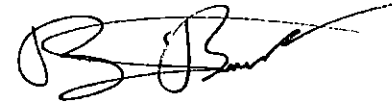
PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES: Directors Ortiz, Baillie, Gonzalez, Sullivan, Ekelund, LeBarre, Smith and Simis

NOES: None

ABSENT: Director Scattini

  
BY: Richard Ortiz, Chair  
Board of Directors

  
ATTEST: Brent Buche  
General Manager