



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER

Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Dan Charlton

November 13, 2020

- County Clerk
County of Riverside
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502
<Submitted electronically>
- State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
<Submitted electronically>
- County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243
- County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

Ladies and Gentlemen:

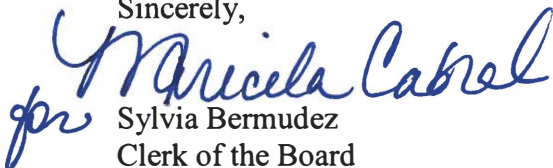
Subject: Notice of Exemption for the Delta Conveyance Project Agreement

Enclosed for filing are two (2) copies of the Notice of Exemption for the above project.

Also enclosed are the following:

1. Self-addressed, stamped-envelope for your use in returning the stamped NOE; and
2. Check for the County filing fees (as applicable).

Sincerely,


Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

Enclosures\as

File: EM\brd\eac\2020\Nov\NOE_CoverLetter Delta Conveyance Project

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County of Riverside
County Clerk
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502 | <input type="checkbox"/> County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 | <input type="checkbox"/> County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750 |

Project Title: Delta Conveyance Project Agreement

Project Location: No specific physical location. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is a State Water Project Contractor and its service area includes portions of Riverside, Imperial and San Diego counties.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Delta Conveyance Project's (DCP or project) primary objective is to protect the State Water Project's (SWP) ability to continue to reliably deliver water south of the Delta. CVWD is a member agency of the SWP contractors. Additional objectives include making the SWP more resilient to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, minimize the impacts from earthquakes (delivery quantity and quality), and providing SWP operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions and better manage risks of additional future regulatory constraints on project operations

In order to help improve the reliability of its imported water supply, CVWD has agreed to participate with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) development of the Delta Conveyance Project. Specifically, CVWD has agreed to:

1. A participation level of 3.78% share associated with the Delta Conveyance Project;
2. Authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement for the Advance or Contribution of Money to the California Department of Water Resources for Preliminary Planning and Design Costs Related to a Potential Delta Conveyance Project (funding agreement);
3. Authorize funding for CVWD's share of the planning and design costs for 2021 and 2022, not to exceed \$4,261,248;
4. Authorize the General Manager to execute amendments to the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Joint Powers Agreement; and
5. Authorize the General Manager to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding for Class 8 Member Agencies Election Procedures for the DCA Board of Directors.

There is no construction planned at this time or included in these actions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CVWD; Ivory Reyburn, Water Program Manager

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)

Exempt Status:

- Not a project: State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- Review for Exemption “Common Sense” Exemption: State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- Ministerial (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1)) State CEQA Guideline §15262
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guideline §15269(b)(c))
- Statutory Exempt: State CEQA Guidelines § _____
- Categorically Exempt: State CEQA Guidelines § _____

Reasons why project is exempt: Approval of these actions are not subject to CEQA for multiple reasons. These actions do not qualify as a “project” subject to CEQA because the actions constitute: (1) continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as general policy and procedure making; (2) government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment; and (3) organizational or administrative activities of a public agency that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment (State CEQA Guidelines §15378).

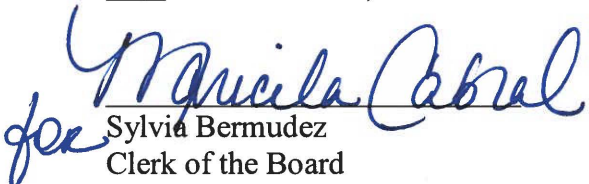
The recommended actions do not constitute project approval by CVWD of the DCP, nor do the actions authorize or approve construction of the DCP. The recommended actions do not authorize or commit the CVWD or DWR to expenditure of the funding on any site-specific project. In addition, the recommended actions do not authorize or approve any actions by the DCA or DWR that may cause direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts. As such, the actions recommended herein are not a “project” requiring environmental review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guideline §15378, subdivisions (a2) and (b)(2), (b)(4), and (b)(5).

Second, even were the actions to be considered a CEQA “project,” these actions would be statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guideline §15262 because the actions merely call for the funding and completion of feasibility and planning studies, not including the completion of CEQA review itself.

Third, the actions are exempt under the “common sense” exemption in State CEQA Guidelines §15061, subdivision (b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the actions may have a significant effect on the environment. None of the exceptions to the use of the “common sense” exemption as identified in State CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 exist with the recommended actions

Contact Person: Elizabeth Meyerhoff, CVWD Environmental Specialist, Phone (760) 398-2651

Date: November 13, 2020


Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board