

# 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: Los Angeles  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**From: (Public Agency):** Water Replenishment District of Southern California (District)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
4040 Paramount Blvd, Lakewood, CA 90712  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Address)

Project Title: Well Destruction Program

Project Applicant: Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Project Location - Specific:  
**District Service Area**

Project Location - City: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:  
 To destroy five (5) inactive supply wells that are acting as conduits for perchlorate, 1,4-Dioxane, tetrachloroethene (PCE), and trichloroethene (TCE) contaminated groundwater and impacting drinking water supply wells in the District service area. The Project will benefit the District and all of its constituent pumpers.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Water Replenishment District of Southern California (District)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: \_\_\_\_\_


- 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 Guidelines §§ 15301, 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)
  - Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

**See Attachment A.**

Lead Agency  
 Contact Person: Joseph Liles Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 562.275.4226

- 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: 02/04/2021 Title: General Manager

▪ 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**

The District's Well Destruction Program ("Project"), subject to State Water Resources Control Board Agreement No. SWRCB000000000D1912535 and District Resolution No. 21-1146 complies with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), based on any one of the following grounds:

(a) The Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15369, in that it is a ministerial project subject to fixed standards and objective measurements. No mitigation measures or variances are required for the Project. Permits for well removal do not require the exercise of independent judgment in this case. Thus, it is not a discretionary project, but ministerial and exempt from CEQA.

(b) Notwithstanding the District's determination that the Project is ministerial, the Project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15301 regarding Existing Facilities. Removal of the existing wells will not result in an expansion or increase in current use or operations. The wells currently serve as a conduit of contaminants, removing the wells is akin to the repair and maintenance work enumerated in CEQA Guidelines § 15301. The Project results only in the demolition and removal of small structures, as permitted within this exemption.

(c) In addition, the Project will protect natural resources and the environment, and is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines §§ 15307 and 15308 as a result. Removal of the wells will assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of drinking water, otherwise subject to potential contamination. The permitting process and regulatory standards for well removal already involve procedures for protection of the environment.

(d) Lastly, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment. The Project is aimed at preventing environmental harm. The Project will remove a conduit of identified chemicals, preventing contamination of drinking water in the District's service area. Accordingly, the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, § 15061, subd. (b)(3), also known as the "common sense" exemption.

## RESOLUTION NO. 21-1146

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE WELL DESTRUCTION PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (“WRD”) is a replenishment district formed pursuant to the Water Replenishment Act, California Water Code Sections 60000 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2019, WRD submitted a grant application entitled “Well Destruction Program” (the Project) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB);

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Project is to destroy five (5) inactive supply wells that may act as conduits for perchlorate, 1,4-Dioxane, tetrachloroethene (PCE), and trichloroethene (TCE) contaminated groundwater and impact drinking water supply wells in WRD’s service area;

**WHEREAS**, the SWRCB provided a preliminary funding award for the Project in a letter dated October 18, 2019. The grant award was preliminary and conditional on the successful negotiation of an agreement with the SWRCB;

**WHEREAS**, a fully executed grant agreement was signed by WRD on June 4, 2020 and the SWRCB on June 16, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, WRD is required to prepare, circulate, and certify necessary CEQA documents pursuant to the grant agreement;

**WHEREAS**, WRD has determined the Project is not expected to require any variances or implicate any unusual circumstances;

**WHEREAS**, WRD has determined that the Project is ministerial pursuant to Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15369, as no special judgment or discretion is required because the Project is subject to fixed standards and objective measurements;

**WHEREAS**, WRD has met the environmental compliance requirements of item 3.1.1 of the grant agreement;

**WHEREAS**, WRD has received confirmation from the Project Manager confirming the SWRCB concurs that implementation may proceed;

**WHEREAS**, upon determining that Project is exempt from CEQA, the District is entitled to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk pursuant to the requirements set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15062.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the Project is approved and WRD or its designee may take all necessary action to proceed consistent with this Resolution; and
2. That the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California hereby authorizes the General Manager (Authorized Representative) or designee to sign and file, for and on behalf of WRD, a notice of exemption to the California Environmental Quality Act for the Project.

Passed, adopted and approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California on February 4, 2021.

AYES: 4  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 1  
ABSTAIN: 0

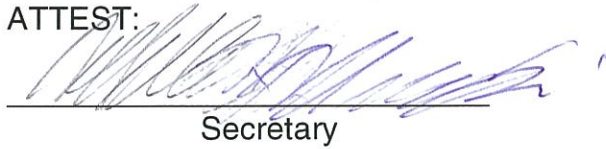
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

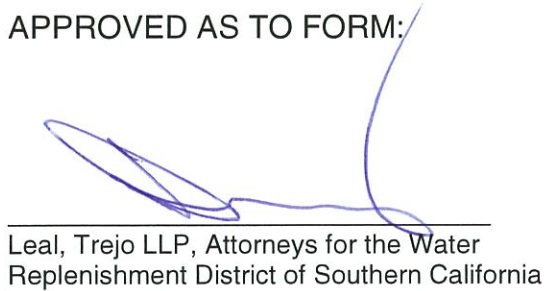


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Secretary

02/04/2021  
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



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Leal, Trejo LLP, Attorneys for the Water  
Replenishment District of Southern California