

## Notice of Exemption

**To:** County Clerk  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260 MS A-33  
San Diego, CA 92101

**From:** San Diego County Water Authority  
4677 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123-1233

State Clearinghouse  
Email: state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

**Project Title:** Southern First Aqueduct Structures Rehabilitation Project (Q0211)

**Project Location - Specific:** Multiple sites along the Water Authority's First Aqueduct located east of Interstate-15, from the City of Escondido in the north to Slaughterhouse Canyon west of the San Vicente Reservoir in the south.

**Project Location - City:** Escondido, San Diego, Poway, and Unincorporated San Diego County  
**Project Location - County:** San Diego

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The project would entail rehabilitation, maintenance, replacement, and abandonment of existing pipeline facilities along an approximately 21-mile stretch of the First Aqueduct. The Water Authority performed a condition assessment of the existing concrete pipeline structures and mechanical equipment in 2015. Based on this assessment, 110 facilities in this southern reach of the First Aqueduct (from south of the Hubbard Hill overflow to the San Vicente Reservoir Tunnel) were identified for rehabilitation or abandonment, consisting of 54 structures on Pipeline 1 (P1) and 56 structures on Pipeline 2 (P2). Rehabilitation or replacement would include geotechnical investigation and work on concrete vaults, structure tops and entry hatches, floors, valves, pipeline nozzles, ventilation features, piping, and ladders. Where needed, existing maintenance aprons around existing structures would be improved by minor regrading; addition of gravel base and rip-rap.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** San Diego County Water Authority

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** San Diego County Water Authority

**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: Class 1 Existing Facilities (Sec. 15301) and Class 2 Replacement or Reconstruction (Sec 15302)
- Statutory Exemption. *State code number:* PRC 21080(b)(8)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The work activities consist of rehabilitation, maintenance, replacement, abandonment, and minor alterations of existing public facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time this notice was executed. Maintenance and replacement of existing facilities is specifically categorically exempted from CEQA per the Water Authority's Administrative Code implementing CEQA [§8.00.060(a)1(i); §8.00.060(a)2(i)].

**Lead Agency** Sean Paver, Sr. Water

**Contact Person:** Resources Specialist

**Telephone:** 858-522-6753

**Signature:**   
Jeremy Crutchfield

**Date:** 05/7/2021

**Title:** Water Resources Manager