

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

County Clerk  
County of Riverside  
Post Office Box 751  
Riverside, CA 92502

County of Imperial  
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder  
940 West Main Street, Suite 202  
El Centro, CA 92243

State Clearinghouse  
Office of Planning and Research  
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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: Adoption of Replenishment Assessment Charge Rates for Fiscal Years 2022-2026  
for the East Whitewater River Subbasin and West Whitewater River Subbasin

Project Location: Within the Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) service area

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Imported water is used to replenish groundwater in the Whitewater River and Mission Creek Subbasins that underlie the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has implemented three Replenishment Assessment Charge (RAC) programs to help manage the groundwater in these subbasins. Groundwater replenishment assessment charges are assessed to all groundwater producers using more than 25 acre-feet of water during any year. The funds collected are utilized to pay specific costs and charges for importing water and recharging the groundwater basins.

The 2021/2022 Engineer's Report on Water Supply and Replenishment Assessment provides the condition of the groundwater supplies, the need for replenishment, recommendations for replenishment programs, and the replenishment assessment charge for each of the three areas of benefit managed by CVWD within the Coachella Valley in Riverside County. This report was presented to CVWD's Board of Directors in accordance with Chapter 7, Sections 31630 through 31639 of the State Water Code.

On June 2, 2021, CVWD's Board of Directors approved changing the East and West Whitewater River Subbasin RAC fee for fiscal year 2021 and approved a maximum proposed rate increase for the remaining fiscal years through 2026. No increase was proposed to the Mission Creek Subbasin RAC for the cost of service study period.

Lead Agency Approving Project and Contact: Coachella Valley Water District, Elizabeth Meyerhoff, Environmental Specialist, Phone: (760) 398-2651

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption Status:

- Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines § \_\_\_\_\_
- Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- 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 §15273 \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)

**Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines § \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt: The fee change involves RAC fees charged by CVWD, such that all of these amendments are statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges. This statutory exemption allows for the establishment and modification of rates, tolls, fares and charges by a public agency. These rate amendments involve charges by a public agency to pay specific costs and charges for importing water and recharging the groundwater basins.

Date: June 8, 2021

*for*   
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Sylvia Bermudez  
Clerk of the Board  
Coachella Valley Water District

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

File No: 0643.3; 0643.5; 0643.6