

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, CA 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: Tri-Palms Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project

Project Location: The Tri-Palms Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project (Project) is located within the Tri-Palms Estates and Country Club community. This housing subdivision is located north of Interstate 10, east of Monterey Avenue and south of Ramon Road, and is addressed as 32700 Desert Moon Drive in unincorporated Thousand Palms, Riverside County. Domestic water pipelines would be replaced along Broadmoor Drive, Westchester Drive, Deane Circle, and Laredo Circle.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project would replace aging and deteriorating asbestos cement pipe water mains in the Tri-Palms Estates and County Club housing subdivision. The domestic (drinking) water system was installed 48 years ago and is deteriorating due to age. The community has experienced leaks which result in lack of water service to CVWD customers during repairs, disruption to the community, unexpected expenses and additional staff time to address the impacts resulting from pipe leaks/failures. Additionally, the existing water mains are located in the back of each residential lot, resulting in additional disruption to residents when repairs are made due to the presence of fences, sheds, and other structures located near or over the water main.

The Project would replace and relocate water mains and service connections to the roadway right-of-way. The Project would replace approximately 3,500 linear feet (0.7 mile) of 8-inch asbestos cement pipe with 8-inch zinc-coated ductile iron pipe, install 103 1-inch service connections, and relocate service connections from the back of lots to the front of the properties. Replacement water pipelines, water service laterals, and new water meter boxes would be constructed within the existing Riverside County roadway right-of-way (ROW). Approximately eleven (11) fire hydrants would be installed in the roadway ROW. Staging would also occur in the roadway ROW. The terrain throughout the entire project area has been disturbed extensively by residential development, utility installations, and road maintenance. Pipeline construction would include surface preparation to remove pavement from work areas, trench excavation (with a width of approximately 3 feet and to a maximum depth of 11 feet) and shoring, pipeline installation, and surface restoration, including paving. The existing asbestos cement pipe water main would be abandoned in place and filled with slurry. The 1-inch service laterals would be replaced by open trench construction or a trenchless method, depending on the presence of paved areas and structures on private properties. The Project would be installed in a

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previously disturbed area within the developed residential community. The duration of construction is estimated at four months.

A cultural resources study was prepared for the project in January 2021. The report concluded that project would not have a significant effect on historical or archaeological resources, and no adverse effect on historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

A biological resources memorandum was prepared for the Project in July 2020. The study found that no state or federally listed threatened or endangered species have the potential to occur in the area of potential effect. No special-status plant or animal species were observed during the pedestrian survey. The Project would have no effect on endangered or threatened botanical and wildlife species or on designated critical habitat.

The project site is not located within or immediately adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The project is not subject to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission's Local Development Mitigation Fee because the project location is an existing, disturbed domestic alignment and parcel(s).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CVWD; Dan Ruiz, Engineering Manager

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 §15282(k)
- Categorically Exempt: State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15301, 15302

Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities) allows for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The project involves repair of existing domestic water structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment with negligible expansion of existing use.

State CEQA Guidelines §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The project would replace existing drinking water structures and utility in a similar alignment to the existing pipelines (in the previously disturbed roadway ROW adjacent to the existing alignment), and would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structures replaced.

State CEQA Guidelines §15282 (Other Statutory Exemptions) exempts maintenance, repair, restoration, removal, or demolition of existing pipeline as long as the project does not exceed one mile in length. The project would install less than one mile of replacement pipeline.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (continued)

Contact Person: Elizabeth Meyerhoff, CVWD Environmental Specialist, Phone: (760)398-2661 extension 2775.

Date: June 22, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sylvia Bermudez", written over a horizontal line.

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: 0426.1422