

## **Attachment A**

### **Linda County Water District Modifications to Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Justification for Notice of Exemption**

The Linda County Water District (LCWD) finds that proposed modifications to existing facilities comprised of aeration blower upgrades, equalization basin construction, and polymer injection system installation (the project) are activities categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Section 15301(b) Class 1 (Existing Facilities Exemption) and CEQA Section 15303(d) Class 3 (New Construction of Small Structures Exemption). This finding is based on:

1. The proposed minor modifications of existing facilities of publicly-owned utilities consistent with categorically exempt activities pursuant to Section 15301 (b) of CEQA.
2. The proposed upgrades/modifications would occur entirely within existing developed facilities at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The proposed new equalization basin would utilize the footprint of a previously described concrete-lined sludge lagoon and a portion of the existing emergency storage pond.
3. The proposed upgrades/modifications would not trigger exceptions to the exemption pursuant to CEQA Section 15300.2. Evaluations and determinations of exceptions to the exemption are:
  - a. The project would be within an existing developed wastewater treatment facility and not located in a sensitive environment;
  - b. The project is a minor modification to a previously analyzed project, the effect of which would not be cumulatively considerable;
  - c. Proposed modifications to existing facilities would improve wastewater system function, longevity, and solid waste handling and disposal, and would not be considered activities that would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances;
  - d. The project would not be located within the viewshed of a scenic highway and would not otherwise damage scenic resources;
  - e. The project is not located on a site known to be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (GeoTracker, 2020).
  - f. No historical resources are present at the WWTF; therefore, the project would have no impact on a historical resource. The modifications would occur within the footprint of a previously analyzed WWTF upgrade project, which was determined to have no impact with respect to historical resources.

4. The proposed new shed for housing the polymer injection equipment would be consistent with categorically exempt activities pursuant to CEQA Section 15303 (d) (Public Resources Code 21803-21804) and would also not trigger any of the exceptions to the exemption pursuant to Section 15300.2 of CEQA.
  
5. The proposed upgrades/modifications would support the mission of the Linda County Water District to reliably provide sanitary sewer services to protect the health of the community and the environment (LCWD, 2020).

## **References**

Linda County Water District, 2020. Our Mission. Accessed December 3, 2020. Available at <https://www.lindawater.com/>.

California State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker web-based data management tool. Facility search: Linda County Water District. Accessed December 4, 2020. <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=Linda+County+water+district>.