

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: Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Monitoring Well Project – Phase 1

Project Location: The project sites are located on developed, CVWD-owned parcels, and existing wells sites, in eastern Coachella Valley, Riverside County, CA.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) proposes to construct six perched aquifer groundwater monitoring wells within the Coachella Valley's Indio Sub-basin at various previously developed well site locations. The proposed monitoring wells will be used to monitor groundwater in the perched and shallow aquifers to address gaps and provide improved overall understanding of water quality. The locations of the proposed monitoring well sites are:

1. Gap Well 17 – APN 696-180-067 (City of Indio well site; Ave. 44, Indio)
2. Gap Well 18 – APN 757-250-021 (CVWD Well Site 6807, Ave. 60, Coachella)
3. Gap Well 19 – APN 759-020-029 (CVWD Well Site 6805, Airport Ave., La Quinta)
4. Gap Well 20 – APN 737-200-023 (CVWD parcel at Ave. 83 Drain, Oasis)
5. Gap Well 21 – APN 751-340-018 (CVWD parcel at Ave. 74 and Polk St., Oasis)
6. Gap Well 22 – APN 729-120-020 (CVWD Booster/Reservoir Site 7990, Mecca)

Construction is anticipated for the duration of one week at each site, and will be contained within each site. The wells will be installed using hollow-stem auger, sonic drilling, direct circulation, or mud rotary methods. Initially, the drilling process will require setting a conductor casing and drilling a 4-inch bore hole to a varying depth of 50- to 350-feet for each well. Samples of the drill cuttings will be obtained and logged at 10-foot intervals. Upon completion of drilling, geophysical logging of the test bores will be performed. The wells will be designed based on the information obtained from each borehole. Monitoring will occur at each site as needed and conducted by CVWD staff.

The project site is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The project is not subject to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments Local Development Mitigation Fee because the project location is on existing developed parcels.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)
Coachella Valley Water District

Lead Agency Approving Project and Contact: Coachella Valley Water District; William Patterson
Environmental Supervisor / Phone: (760) 398-2651

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 §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 §
- Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines §15301, §15303, §15306

Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities). This class 1 exemption 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project consists on minor alteration on an existing domestic well site, and does not involve a significant expansion of use.

State CEQA Guidelines §15303 (New Construction and Conversion of Small Structures) consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure.

State CEQA Guidelines § 15306 (Information Collection). This class 6 exemption consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Date: October 14, 2021

for 

Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

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

File No. 0710.1017.14