



California Environmental Quality Act NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

From: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Project Title: Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation Pilot Seasonal Land Fallowing Program

Project Location - Specific: Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, north of Interstate 8 and north and west of the Colorado River

Project Location - City: Winterhaven

Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Project:

Description of Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has approved entering into a two-year pilot land fallowing program (Program) from 2022 through 2023 that involves temporary, seasonal (April through July), and fallowing of farmland located within the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation (Reservation). This Program would reduce the amount of Colorado River water that would otherwise be used to irrigate this farmland. The farmland would be fallowed by farmers who voluntarily enter into agreements with Metropolitan, under which Metropolitan would monetarily compensate (pay) the participants. This temporary, seasonal fallowing would reduce the Colorado River water used for irrigation in the Reservation, making increased water supplies available to be diverted into the Colorado River Aqueduct by Metropolitan. The Program will not change the existing operational capacity of the Colorado River Aqueduct or result in an expansion of its use. In addition, the proposed project will consist of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: (Type other agency here if not listed)

Exempt Status:

- Emergency Project--Repairs [Public Resources Code §21080(b)(2); State CEQA Guidelines
- Emergency Project--Prevent [Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines
- Categorical Exemption, State CEQA Guidelines §15301, Class 1; §15304, Class 4; §15306, Class 6;
- Statutory Exemptions, State CEQA Guidelines
- Other, State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3);

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project involves minor modifications in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. These activities would result in negligible or no expansion of use of public or private facilities or features and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. In addition, the proposed project will consist of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies for Class 1, Class 4 and Class 6 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15304 and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Lead Agency Contact: Ana Reyes at (213) 217-6017

Signature:

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Diane Doesserich
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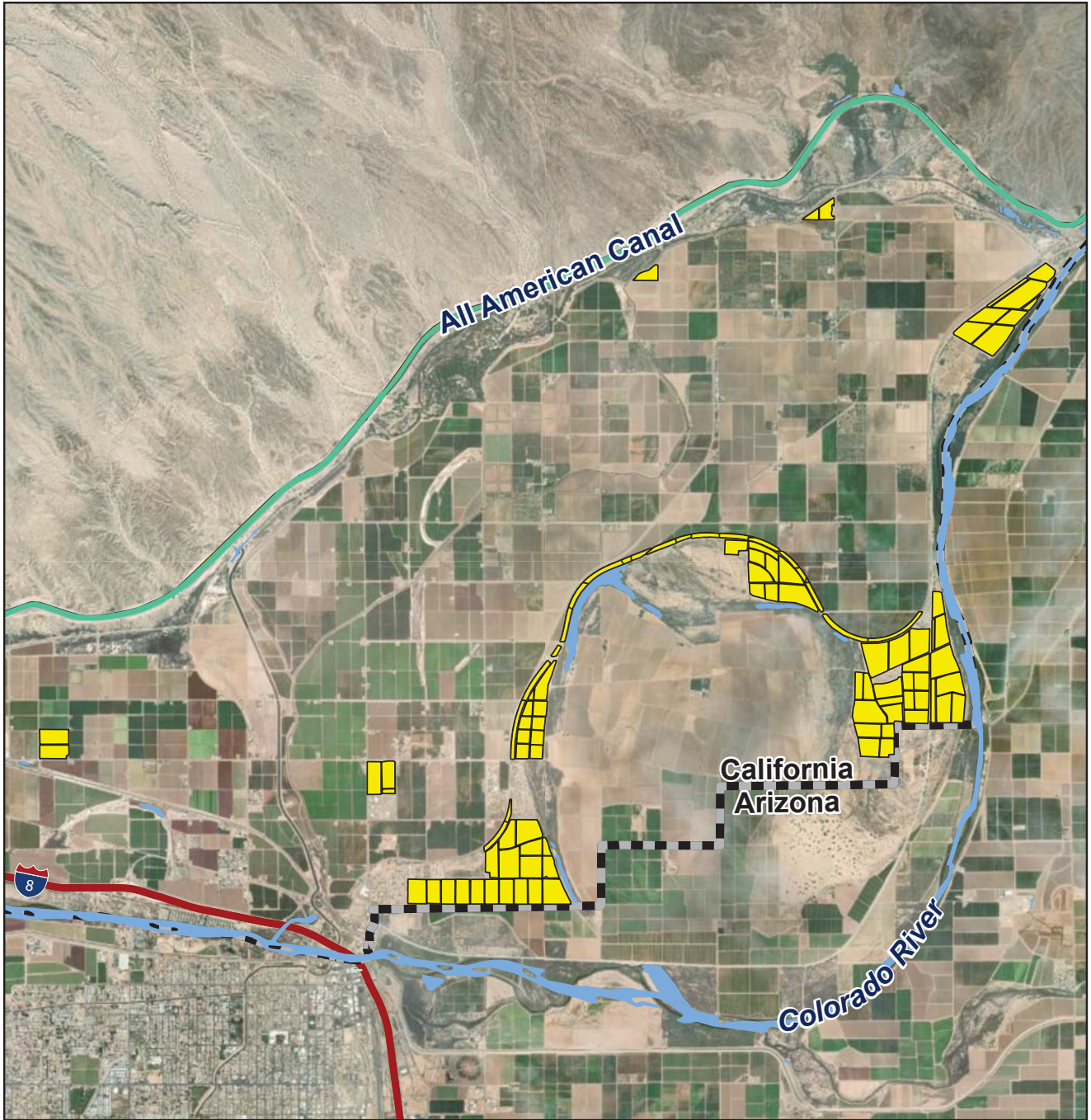
Diane Doesserich

Environmental Planning Manager, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Date: 11/9/21

Date received for filing:

Figure 1 - Location Map



Legend

 Proposed Land for Pilot Program (Quechan Tribal Land)

 State Borders



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