

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: 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan

Project Location: Coachella Valley Water District Service area, including portions of Riverside, Imperial and San Diego Counties, California.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Indio Subbasin (ISB) 2022 Alternative Plan Update has been prepared to meet specific requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as it applies to the ISB. This plan update is also intended to support water management planning for the ISB, designated as Basin No. 7-21.01 by the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR).

The foundation for the 2022 ISB Alternative Plan Update (also known as the ISB Water Management Plan) is the 2010 Coachella Valley Water Management Plan Update (CVWMP). The CVWMP met the requirements to be considered an alternative to a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) under the SGMA. In 2019, the CDWR approved the CVWMP as the Alternative Plan for the ISB, finding it functionally equivalent to a GSP. The first five-year update to the ISB Alternative Plan is due for submittal to the CDWR by January 1, 2022.

The 2022 ISB Alternative Plan Update incorporates the most current projections for population growth, land use, water demand, water supply outlook, and other future conditions into ISB water management planning to ensure that future water demands can be reliably met and groundwater managed sustainably. In addition, the update integrates specific recommendations from the CDWR regarding management criteria for groundwater levels, storage, and subsidence; water quality mapping; identification of groundwater dependent ecosystems; and other recommendations. The 2022 ISB Alternative Plan Update was prepared collaboratively by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the ISB, who are Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Coachella Water Authority (CWA), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Indio Water Authority (IWA).

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:

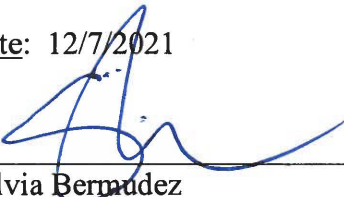
- Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- Declared Emergency:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- Emergency Project:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guideline §15269(b)(c))
- Statutory Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines §
- Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines §15262, Water code (WAT) §10728.6

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA Guidelines Section §15262 - A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or negative declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

Water Code (WAT) §10728.6 -Conservation, Development, and Utilization of State Water Resources Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code does not apply to the preparation and adoption of plans pursuant to this chapter. Nothing in this part shall be interpreted as exempting from Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code a project that would implement actions taken pursuant to a plan adopted pursuant to this chapter.

Date: 12/7/2021



Sylvia Bernádez
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. 0423.25.1