



California Environmental Quality Act: Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
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From: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

Project Name: Agreement with the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to Take Additional Flexible Storage from Castaic Lake

Project Location - Specific: Castaic Lake (see attached project location map)

Project Location - City: see map

Project Location - County: Los Angeles and Ventura

Description of Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are proposing to execute an agreement that would allow Metropolitan to take additional flexible storage water from Castaic Lake. Due to ongoing emergency drought conditions and Metropolitan's extremely low State Water Project (SWP) allocation in 2021, Metropolitan currently is unable to take delivery of 48,699 acre-feet of flexible storage water from Lake Perris, as allowed under the terms of its existing long-term SWP contract with DWR. The proposed agreement between Metropolitan and DWR would allow Metropolitan to temporarily take delivery of this flexible storage water from Castaic Lake instead.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Exempt Status: (check as applicable)

- Ministerial (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines
- Not a Project (Public Resources Code § 21065, State CEQA Guidelines § 15378)
- Declared Emergency (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(2); State CEQA Guidelines
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines §15269(c))
- Categorical Exemption, Class 1, State CEQA Guidelines §15301
- Statutory Exemption, State CEQA Guidelines
- Other, State CEQA Guidelines

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is exempt because it consists of specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. The proposed project also consists of 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.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jennifer Harriger at (213) 217-7658

Signature: _____
Team Manager
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Date: January 4, 2022

Date received for filing: