Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Tulare

From: (Public Agency): City of Exeter
P.O. Box 237 Exeter, CA 93221

(Address)

Project Title: City of Exeter DWSRF Planning Application

Project Applicant: City of Exeter

Project Location - Specific:
City-wide

Project Location - City: Exeter Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
See attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Exeter

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Daymon Qualls, Director of Public Works

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15262 FEASIBILITY AND PLANNING STUDIES

Reasons why project is exempt:
The City is submitting a planning and feasibility grant application at this time. Based on the research and studies prepared, the City will design new components for the system for future actions and consideration for the approval or disapproval of the project. An environmental review of the proposed project will be conducted as warranted prior to actions by the lead agency.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Daymon Qualls Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559.592.3318

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: Daymon Qualls Date: 2/25/2022 Title: Director of Public Works

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Description and Objectives

The City of Exeter (City) operates a small, community drinking water system located in the disadvantaged community of Exeter in Tulare County, California. The system has 3,298 service connections, an average demand of approximately 1,738 acre-feet per year, six active wells, three inactive wells, and one active 100,000-gallon storage tank. The City is seeking to address the following issues:

- The City's existing water storage capacity is insufficient during peak demand periods. Additional water storage and pumping facilities will be required to satisfy peak demands and future growth.
- Several wells are abandoned. The City would like to explore the possibility of rehabilitating abandoned wells to restore production capacity.
- The capacities of the existing wells have been declining over the years. The City wishes to conduct pump testing to determine the current capacities of each well.
- Elevated haloacetic acid, trihalomethane, and coliform levels have been occasionally observed throughout the distribution system. The City wishes to evaluate and design infrastructure improvements for mitigating exceedances.
- The City's existing water system controls infrastructure is aging and requires extensive upgrades to facilitate long-term operation of water supply infrastructure.
- Several critical wells do not have auxiliary power to maintain production in the event of a power and/or engine failure of the existing well motors.

To address these issues, the following project components work will require planning and design:

- **Increasing the water storage capacity from 100,000 to 500,000 gallons through design of a new storage tank and booster pump station.**
- **Increasing water supply capacity through potential rehabilitation of abandoned and active wells.**
- **Mitigation of occasional coliform, trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acid exceedances through evaluation and design of infrastructure improvements.**
- **Design of a new SCADA system with updated radio telemetry equipment to serve six (6) or more wells and associated storage tanks**.
- **Design of auxiliary/emergency power to four (4) existing wells.**