

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: Water Reclamation Plant No. 2 Monitoring Wells Project

Project Location:

The Project is located at the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Water Reclamation Plant No. 2 (WRP 2) located near the northeast shore of the Salton Sea in the unincorporated community of Mecca, Riverside County. The proposed wells will replace three existing monitoring wells at WRP 2 that are currently not in service. WRP 2 is a small lagoon facility that provides service to the community of North Shore. The Project is within Sections 34 of Township 7 South, Range 10 East, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Mortmar 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. WRP 2 is located at 72900 Commerce Street, North Shore, CA 92254. The locations of the proposed monitoring sites are:

- Monitoring Wells 1 and 3 – APN 723-226-003
- Monitoring Well 2 – APN 723-230-001

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

CVWD proposes to construct three groundwater monitoring wells within CVWD WRP 2 facility. The purpose of the Project is to collect groundwater data to adequately characterize groundwater level and water quality changes from WRP 2 operations. Each of the three proposed wells would be located within the WRP 2 site.

Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2022 with a duration of one week for each well site, and would be entirely contained within the gated WRP 2 site. The wells would be installed using either hollow-stem auger, sonic drilling, direct circulation, or mud rotary methods. Initially, the drilling process would require setting a conductor casing and drilling a 4-inch bore hole to a varying depth of 30- to 260-feet for each well. Samples of the drill cuttings would be obtained and logged at 10-foot intervals to characterize the soil. Upon completion of drilling, geophysical logging of the test bores would be performed. The wells screening depths and intervals would be designed based on the information obtained from each bore hole. Permanent pump infrastructure is not included in the Project; a portable submersible pump would be installed into each monitoring well when a sample is needed, and removed upon completion. Monitoring would occur at each site as-needed by CVWD staff.

Surrounding land uses consist of residential, commercial, open space, and roadways. The Project is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)
Coachella Valley Water District

Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Ground disturbance and construction activities would occur entirely within the previously developed WRP 2 site.

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 of minor alteration on an existing water reclamation plant site, and does not involve a significant expansion of use.

State CEQA Guidelines § 15303 (New Construction). This Class 3 exemption allows for the 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. The Project involves the installation of three monitoring wells; whereas these monitoring wells are considered small structures on the existing WRP 2 site.

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. The Project involves information collection from shallow monitoring wells for the evaluation of nearby CVWD facilities.

Date: 04/12/2022



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.: 0710.0104