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: Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Hwy. Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): Water Replenishment District of Southern California
4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, CA 90712
(Address)

Project Title: Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program Phase 1 Pilot Testing and Monitoring

Project Applicant: Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Project Location - Specific:

City of Torrance, CA (see Figure 1)

Project Location - City: City of Torrance Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See Attachment A

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Water Replenishment District of Southern California

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

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

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declaration Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3);15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4);15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines Section 15306; See Attach. A
- ☐ Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment A

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Mario Bautista Area Code/
Telephone/Extension: 562-275-4284

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: _____ Date: 6/23/22 Title: General Manager

☒ 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: _____

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) is proposing to install a pilot test well, two soils borings, and four multi-nested groundwater monitoring wells in the City of Torrance, in support of future groundwater remediation efforts. The new wells will provide water and hydrogeologic data needed to characterize the groundwater quality and quantity and assist in designing an effective groundwater remediation system. The proposed facilities include the following:

1. A Pilot Test well (PT-01) that draws water from three depths that represent a range in influent water quality. Data collected from the clustered pilot test well will be used to evaluate the possible range in water qualities at one location within distinct layers of the aquifer. PT-01 will consist of three (PT-01a, PT-01b, and PT-01c), co-located 6-inch well casings (cluster) each containing a 100-foot-long screen interval. The three well casings would be installed in separate borings with a maximum proposed total depth of 800 feet below ground surface (bgs).
2. Two borings (SB-01 and SB-02) for the collection of depth-discrete groundwater samples (i.e. SimulProbe borings). Borehole resistivity sensors (sensors) will be installed in the borings and backfilled with cement-bentonite grout. The sensors will provide borehole resistivity information along a North-South transect across the axis of the brackish plume in the Silverado Aquifer.
3. Four multi-nested groundwater monitoring wells (PM-07, PM-08, PM-09, and PM-10) to evaluate the effectiveness for long term monitoring and use during the pilot testing. The nested monitoring wells would consist of approximately five, 2.5-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) well casings installed in a single boring to a proposed total depth of 700 feet bgs. The well screen interval depths, screen slot size, and annular materials will be determined following review of the subsurface geologic materials encountered, geophysical logs, groundwater results for chloride and total dissolved solids (TDS).

After Pilot Test and monitoring well development, baseline groundwater samples will be collected from each well by WRD. Subsequent groundwater sampling will be performed as part of the Regional Groundwater Sampling Program.

Following well development, aquifer tests will be performed at the Pilot Test well (PT-01), which would consist of a stepped drawdown test (or *step test*). A step test is designed to determine the water level drawdown at the design production rate as well as an estimate of hydraulic properties of an aquifer system such as transmissivity and hydraulic conductivity. To perform the test, an initially low constant pumping rate is increased through a series of equal duration pumping intervals (or *steps*).

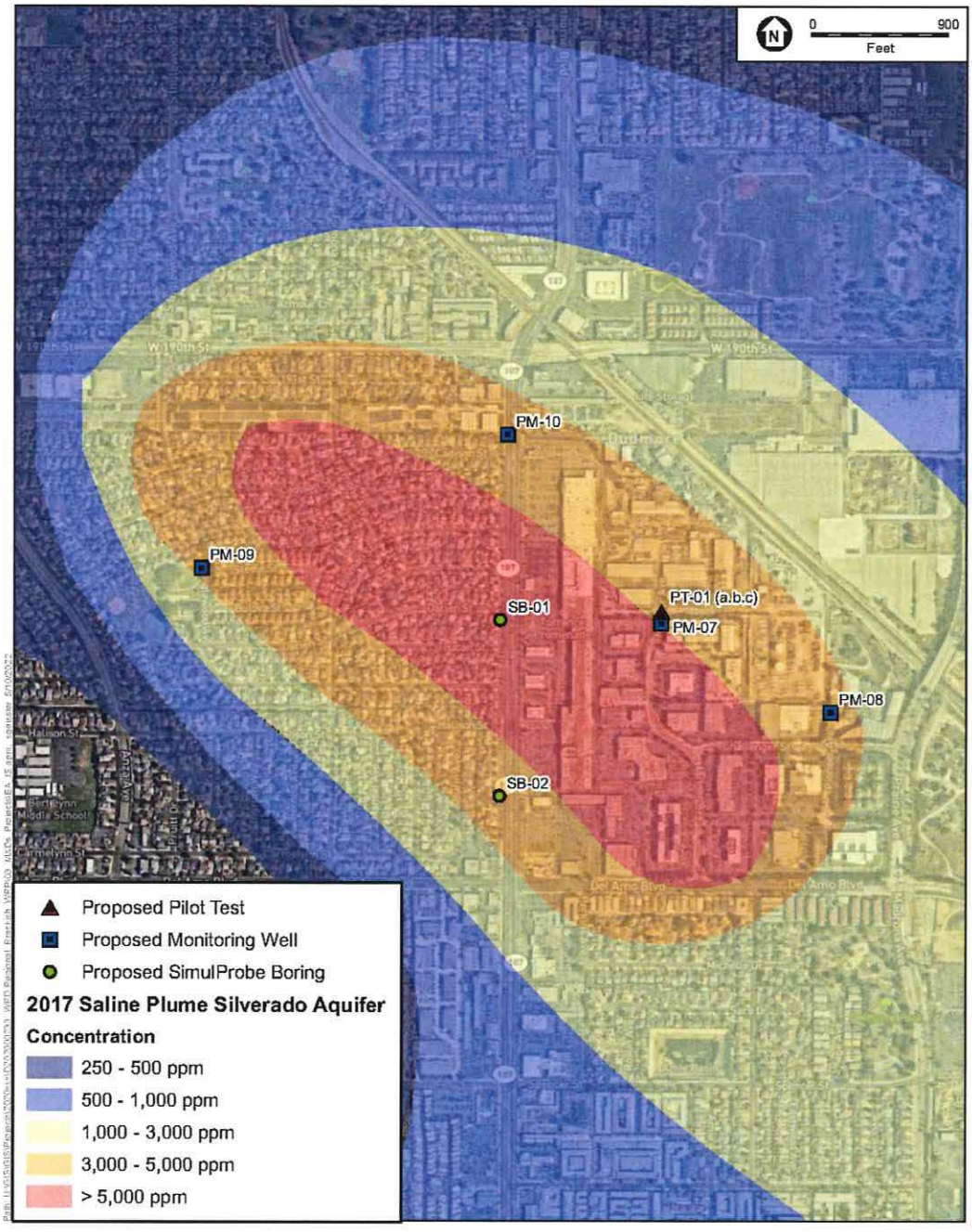
Following development of the wells and initial testing, a water treatment pilot test system will be operated on water from the Pilot Test Well (PT-01) for up to 12 months with onsite pilot units. The pilot test will evaluate the treatment necessary to remediate the groundwater including pretreatment for organics and particulate removal followed by a reverse osmosis system for removal of the salts from the brackish water expected in the trapped seawater plume. During the treatment pilot testing, more well water will be generated than is required for treatment, however, there is a need for assessing the actual productivity of the well at higher flows than are required for the treatment pilot testing. Excess water would be discharged to a nearby sewer.

Project Location: The Project would be located within the City of Torrance. As shown on **Figure 1**, the pilot test (PT-01) and PM-07 wells would be located within the right-of-way of Voyager Street east of Mariner Avenue. This is also the location where the treatment pilot would be installed temporarily. PM-08 would be located in Pioneer Avenue. PM-09 would be located within the City of Torrance La Romeria Park. PM-10, SB-01 and SB-02 would be located within the Hawthorne Boulevard right-of-way south of 190th Street and north of Del Amo Boulevard.

Exempt Status: This Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21000 et seq.) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15300 et seq. and, more specifically, the exemption identified in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306 for Information Collection. The pilot test, monitoring wells, and borings will be used solely for basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation purposes. These activities will help to characterize the groundwater quality. The Project is strictly for information gathering purposes. The

Project would occur entirely within public rights-of-way or public recreational facilities within the City of Torrance and is not anticipated to result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Figure 1



SOURCE: Mapbox, 2021; ESA, 2022

Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Project

ESA

Figure 1
NOE Figure