

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, CA 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: Irrigation Lateral 119.64-7.5 Replacement – Phase 1

Project Location: The project is located along Avenue 58 from Van Buren Street to the Thermal Airport in the unincorporated community of Thermal, California. The project is within portions of Sections 23, 25, and 26 of Township 6 South, Range 7 East and Sections 29 and 30 of Township 6 South, Range 8 East, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Indio 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) Irrigation Lateral 119.64-7.5 is an old large-diameter concrete irrigation pipeline that delivers water from the Coachella Canal to farmers. The 3.5-mile-long pipeline is part of a gravity fed system interspersed with above-ground baffle stands roughly every quarter mile where the farmers' sub-laterals connect. The aging gravity system is leaking water from the pipeline joints, surging water out of the baffle stands, and spilling excess water at the tail end to the drain.

This project would remove and replace approximately 8,800 linear feet of existing concrete pipe with new polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. Additionally, the project would install a new master meter with isolation valves, regulatory meter, regulatory baffle stand, and five meters. The proposed improvements also include the removal of existing baffle stands east of Meter No. 1898. A trenchless utility installation method (Jack and Bore method) would be required to complete the work. Street improvements would also be required. The objective of these improvements is to increase the operational efficiency, enhance water conservation, and improve customer service.

Surrounding land uses consist of residential, agricultural, open space and roadways. The project is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Ground disturbance and construction activities would occur within pre-disturbed soils.

Name of Lead Agency Approving Project: CVWD; Brian Korcok, P.E., Senior Engineer

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)

Exempt Status:

- Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines § _____
- 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, 15302

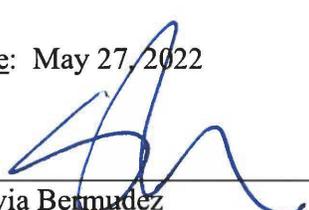
Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities) 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 existing or former use. The project would improve existing lateral pipeline infrastructure with no change to the use of the pipelines.

State CEQA Guidelines §15032 (Replacement or Reconstruction) allows for projects consisting of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The replacement irrigation infrastructure would be located on the same site and have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing infrastructure.

Lead Agency Contact Person: CVWD: William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor
Phone: (760) 398-2651

Date: May 27, 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: 0322.12