

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Western Municipal Water District
14205 Meridian Parkway
Riverside, CA 92518

(Address)

County Clerk
County of: Riverside
2724 Gateway Dr., Riverside, CA 92507

Project Title: SCADA Wide Area Network Project

Project Applicant: Western Municipal Water District

Project Location - Specific:

The proposed project includes improvements at four existing aboveground storage tank locations, which are shown on **Figure 1**. The Orangecrest and Lurin tanks would be located in the City of Riverside and the Lockwood and Old Lake tanks would be located within unincorporated portions of Riverside County. All locations are owned and operated by Western Municipal Water District (Western).

Project Location - City: Riverside

Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Western is implementing the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Wide Area Network Project (project). In 2018, Western completed a SCADA Master Plan that identifies SCADA component upgrades and system improvements for a cohesive, standardized, and optimized control system and to improve the overall SCADA system reliability, accessibility, maintainability and security. The proposed project has been identified as the initial phase of the Master Plan to provide additional reliability to Western's water system operation.

The proposed project would involve installation of four self-supporting steel lattice tower structures at each of the following aboveground storage tank locations: Lockwood, Lurin, Orangecrest, and Old Lake. Installation would involve foundation placement, tower construction, grounding, and conduit installation. Foundation and conduit work would involve excavation of up to 4 feet below ground surface. The towers would be erected 65 feet tall by 7 feet wide and would taper to 3 feet with increased height. The existing storage tanks are on average 200 feet in diameter by 45 feet tall and will continue to be the most visually dominant structures on each site. Although the antenna tower would be approximately 25 feet taller than the existing storage tanks, the antenna tower would be composed of aluminum scaffolding and would not block views. Installation of each tower would last approximately 6 months and would occur during allowable construction hours of the City of Riverside and County of Riverside.

Beneficiaries of the project include the customers of Western, who will benefit from increased operating efficiency obtained through a real-time data network.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Western Municipal Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Western Municipal Water District

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 15301
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

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 15301 for Existing Facilities. The section 15301 Exemption covers minor alteration of existing public structures or mechanical equipment, and section 15301(B) specifies those can include publically owned utilities used to provide public utility services. Western is a publically owned utility that is providing public utility services, namely water, wastewater and recycled water services to its constituents. All minor alterations will occur at existing aboveground storage tank sites on Western-owned property. The 15301 Exemption requires that the project involves negligible or no expansion of use. Because installation of the SCADA system is not expected to increase the storage capacity of any of the tanks, the project would result in negligible or no expansion to the current use. The proposed project is solely intended to collect and transmit water data to improve daily operations and maintenance of the four storage tanks. Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the requirements for a Class 1 (Existing Facilities) categorical exemption per section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Sayer Pinto

Area Code/

Telephone/Extension: 951-571-7293

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: D Standing Warrior Date: 8/10/22 Title: Operations 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: _____

Figure 1



SOURCE: Nearmap, 2022; WMWD, 2022; ESA, 2022.

SCADA Wide Area Network NOE

Figure 1
Existing Storage Tanks

