

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Borrego Water District
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

County Clerk
 County of: San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260
San Diego, CA 92101

(Address)

Project Title: Borrego Water District - Rams Hill WWTF Groundwater Monitoring Wells

Project Applicant: Borrego Water District, 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004; (760) 767-5806

Project Location - Specific:

APN: 199-19-003, 200-12-041, and 200-12-042

Project Location - City: Borrego Springs Project Location - County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project would consist of drilling three pairs of clustered monitoring wells to expand the groundwater monitoring well network for the Rams Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility. The proposed project site totals 2.16 acres. The project occurs within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 199-19-003, 200-12-041, and 200-12-042, within which the groundwater monitoring wells will be situated. The project site is located approximately 5 miles north of State Route 78, and 21 miles southwest of the Salton Sea. More specifically, the project site is located within the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs in San Diego County, north of Borrego Springs Road, east of Yagul Pass Road, and south of Palm Canyon Drive. The WWTF is owned and operated by the District and is regulated by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Colorado River Basin Region, who issued the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirement Order RW-2019-0015 (Order) to the District on March 7, 2019. The Order outlines specific requirements for an updated Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for the WWTF. The updated MRP is intended to include a groundwater monitoring network that adequately tracks groundwater quality trends and groundwater flow direction to characterize infiltration and identify if recharge to groundwater from the WWTF exceeds water quality objectives, impairs beneficial use, or contains constituents in excess of the California Code of Regulations Title 22 maximum contaminant levels. In a letter dated June 21, 2021, the RWQCB, Colorado River Basin Region granted approval of the Groundwater Monitoring Network Work Plan (Work Plan). The Work Plan was developed and prepared to partially satisfy Special Provision 1 of the Order for the Rams Hill WWTF. The purpose of this work plan is to provide guidelines for the drilling of six additional monitoring wells completed as clustered pairs (WWTF-2, WWTF-3, and WWTF-4) to expand the groundwater monitoring network for the WWTF. The permanent disturbance area for the six proposed groundwater monitoring wells is approximately 3 feet by 3 feet, and the temporary impact areas associated with equipment access is approximately 200 feet by 215 feet surrounding each proposed groundwater monitoring well cluster. Access to the proposed well locations would utilize existing dirt roads and no off-site improvements or dirt road improvements are proposed. Please see attached Justifications for CEQA Exemption Letter.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Borrego Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Borrego Water District

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: Class 3 (15303), Class 4 (15304), and Class 6 (15306)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project involves drilling six additional groundwater monitoring wells, completed as three pairs of clustered wells, for the Rams Hill WWTF. Please see attached Justifications for CEQA Exemption under Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land; and Class 6, Information Collection.

Lead Agency
 Contact Person: Geoff Poole, General Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 767-5806

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: *Geoff Poole* Date: 02/23/2023 Title: Borrego Water District

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.