

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO:	Kern County Clerk 1115 Truxton Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639	FROM:	Indian Wells Valley Water District 500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd Ridgecrest, CA 93555
1.	Project Title:	Dune 3 Mutual Water Company Consolidation Project	
2.	Project Applicant:	Indian Wells Valley Water District	
3.	Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	The project is located in Kern County in the China Lake Acres area west of Ridgecrest south of West Ward Avenue and West of North Calvert Blvd.	
4.	(a) Project Location – City: Ridgecrest (nearest)	(b) Project Location – County: Kern	
5.	Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	The Dune 3 Water Mutual Company (WMC) is consolidating with the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) to improve infrastructure, water quality, and water access to its customers. The proposed project will install over 3,200 feet of 12-inch PVC main and over 8,500 feet of 8-inch PVC main to serve as the new distribution system. Gate valves, fire hydrants and other appurtenances will be installed on the new distribution mains as required. New 3/4" meters and one-inch service laterals will be installed for all eligible and existing Dune 3 customers. The existing Dune 3 wells will be destroyed per County requirements and the existing distribution system will be abandoned in place. Existing pumps and tanks will be removed from the easements. Additionally, the work includes connection of the distribution system to the existing IWVWD system at two locations: Ward Avenue/N Strecker Street, and Autumn Avenue/N Calvert Boulevard. Temporary and permanent trench restoration, and landscape restoration necessary to restore the site to pre-construction conditions will also be performed.	
6.	Name of Public Agency approving project:	Indian Wells Valley Water District	
7.	Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Indian Wells Valley Water District	
8.	Exempt status: (check one)		
(a)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)	
(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.		
(c)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b).	
(d)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	Sections 15302 (replacement or reconstruction) and 15303 (new construction or conversion)	
(e)	<input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))	
(f)	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption.		

State Code section number:		
(g)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation:
9.	Reason why project was exempt:	The project meets Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) because it will replace existing water mains with new water mains involving negligible expansion of capacity within the project area (i.e., the same number of properties serviced prior to the project will remain serviced after the project). The project meets Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion...) because some water mains will be relocated outside of the current location and into the road right of way, and because some pipe diameters will be increased; however, the increase will not cause an expansion of capacity within the project area.
10.	Lead Agency Contact Person:	Renee Morquecho, Chief Engineer
	Telephone:	760-384-5520

Signature:  Date: April 13, 2023 Title: Chief Engineer

Name: Renee E. Morquecho

Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Clerk Stamp Here)