

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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| TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 | FROM: Borrego Water District (Public Agency) 806 Palm Canyon Drive Borrego Springs, CA 92004 Telephone: (760) 767-5806 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Diego County Clerk 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260 San Diego, CA 92101 | |

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| Project Title: | Project Component No. 2 Under the Grant Agreement Between California’s Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Borrego Water District, Agreement No. 4600014652 |
| Project Applicant: | Borrego Water District, 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004 |
| 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): | Borrego Water District Service Area |
| a) Project Location – City and County: | Borrego Springs Subbasin of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”), which is located in San Diego County. |
| Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project: | <p>On December 13, 2022, the Board of Directors for the Borrego Water District (“District”) entered into a \$6,115,833 million dollar grant agreement with DWR for Proposition 68 funding awarded to the District (“Agreement”). The Agreement will assist in financing projects associated with the SGM Grant Program on a reimbursable basis.</p> <p>Project Component No. 2 (“Project”) under the Agreement consists of replacement of all the District’s manual water meters with an advanced system. This Project will replace over 2,000 manual water meters to address demand-side reductions to basin pumping. Development in the District’s service area is geographically dispersed on relatively large lots in sandy soil. This scenario creates situations where water leaks in the customers plumbing or irrigation system can run for extended periods of time unrecognized. The new infrastructure will increase water use efficiency and improve leak detection and create an immediate response in the Basin’s commercial and residential sectors. Based on historic trends, this Project will save 20-acre feet annually.</p> |
| Name of Public Agency approving project: | Borrego Water District |
| Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project: | Borrego Water District |
| Exempt status: (check one) | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial project. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Not a project. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: | CEQA Guidelines § 15302 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption. State Code section number: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other. Explanation: | |
| Reason why project was exempt: | | <p>The Project is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15302 (Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction), which exempts projects from further CEQA review for the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems involving negligible or no expansion of capacity, where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Here, the Project involves the replacement of existing meters with more advanced meters, which involve no expansion of capacity, will be located on the same site as the existing meters, and will have the same purpose and capacity as the existing meters.</p> <p>None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 have any applicability here. The Project will not impact any environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, will not result in significant cumulative impacts, is not subject to any unusual circumstances that could result in a significant environmental impact, would not damage any scenic resources within a scenic highway, is not located on a hazardous waste site identified on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5, and would not impact any historical resource.</p> <p>For all of the foregoing reasons, the entirety of the Project is categorically exempt from CEQA.</p> |
| Lead Agency Contact Person: | | Geoff Poole, General Manager |
| Telephone: | | (760) 767-5806 |
| Was a public meeting held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| If yes, the date of the public hearing was: <u>06/23/2023</u> | | |

Signature: Geoff Poole
Title: General Manager for Borrego Water District

Date: 06/13/2023

Name: Geoff Poole

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: _____

(Clerk Stamp Here)