

**SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT  
Notice of Exemption**

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT  
31592 West Street  
Laguna Beach CA 92651

County Clerk Recorder  
County of Orange  
PO Box 238  
Santa Ana CA 92702

**Project Title:** *Aliso Creek Recycled Water Main Repair Project*

**Project Applicant:** *South Coast Water District*

**Project Location – City:** *Laguna Beach, California*

**Project Location – County:** *Orange*

**Project Location – Specific:** *Intersection of South Coast Highway and Country Club Drive in Laguna Beach, California.*

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** *South Coast Water District (District) is planning maintenance activities on an existing 16” ductile iron recycled water main that crosses beneath Aliso Creek near South Coast Highway. District staff recently made an emergency repair to the existing recycled water main and found that the main is severely corroded. The District proposes to use the cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) method for relining the pipe. CIPP is a jointless, seamless pipe lining within an existing pipe. The project is located within the City of Laguna Beach (“City”) and includes work within a parking lot owned by Orange County Parks (“OC Parks”). The recycled water main serves south Laguna Beach and the City of Dana Point.*

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** *South Coast Water District*

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** *South Coast Water District*

**Exempt Status** (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 15073(b) and (c))
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: *Section 15301 (Class 1) (b) categorically exempt repair or maintenance of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.*

**Reason why project is exempt:** *See Attachment A*

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** *Dylan LaFrance, Senior Engineer*

**Area Code / Telephone / Extension:** *(949) 342-2178*

*Dylan LaFrance*  
Signature

7/19/23  
Date

Senior Engineer  
Title

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

## **Attachment A Supplemental Information**

### **CIPP Construction/Installation Methods**

CIPP is a trenchless rehabilitation method used to repair existing pipelines. It is a jointless, seamless pipe lining within an existing pipe. The CIPP repair involves inserting and running a felt lining into a preexisting pipe. Resin within the liner is then exposed to a curing element to make it attach to the inner walls of the pipe. Once fully cured, the lining will act as a new pipeline.

At the Aliso Creek crossing site, the CIPP repairs will be completed on a 300-foot section of the recycled water pipeline. The CIPP will be inserted by excavating and cutting into the existing recycled water pipe on the western side of Aliso Creek within District property. On the opposite side of Aliso Creek access to the existing pipe will be from an excavation at an OC Parks parking lot. The section of the existing water main being repaired will be cleaned prior to CIPP installation and the entire construction process is expected to take approximately 15 days.

### **Biological Resources and Habitat**

The staging areas and CIPP installation sites are within an existing roadway and paved parking area. The streambed and banks of Aliso Creek will not be disturbed during construction. No vegetation will be disturbed or removed. Examination of the staging and work areas by a qualified biologist indicates there are no unusual circumstances associated with the project that would require further biological review.

### **Recreational Use and Site Access**

The OC Parks parking area on the east side of Aliso Creek consists of overflow parking for Aliso Beach County Park. Use of this parking area is heaviest on weekends and during the summer months and only lightly used during other times. The District will coordinate with OC Parks so the construction phase will avoid periods of heavy use and not have an impact on recreation activities in the area.

### **Reasons Why Project is Exempt**

**Finding - CEQA (Exempt):** CEQA Guidelines lists classes of projects that have been determined to not have a significant effect on the environment and are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA:

- (a) CEQA. Section 15302 (Class 1) (b) categorically exempt repair or maintenance of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

*The CIPP rehabilitation of an existing recycled water main will not increase the system capacity. No sensitive habitat or special status species are adversely affected by the project. Review by District staff indicates there are no unusual circumstances associated with the project or the property that would require further environmental review.*

**Finding - California Coastal Commission (CDP Exclusion):** Coastal Act Section 30610 Developments Authorized Without Permit:

- (d) Repair or maintenance activities that do not result in an addition to, or enlargement or expansion of, the object of those repair or maintenance activities; provided, however,

that if the commission determines that certain extraordinary methods of repair and maintenance involve a risk of substantial adverse environmental impact, it shall, by regulation, require that a permit be obtained pursuant to this chapter.

*The proposed project does not result in “addition to, or enlargement or expansion” of the existing recycle water pipeline.*

**Finding – City of Laguna Beach (CDP Exemption):** Laguna Beach municipal Code Title 25 Zoning, Chapter 25.07.008 Section 30610 CDP Exemptions:

(A)(3) Repair and Maintenance Activities. “Repair and maintenance activities that do not result in an addition to, or enlargement or expansion of, the object of such repair and maintenance activities....”

*The proposed project does not result in “addition to, or enlargement or expansion” of the existing recycle water pipeline.*

(A)(3)(d) “Any repair or maintenance to facilities or structures or work located in an environmentally sensitive area, any sand area, within fifty (50) feet of the edge of a coastal bluff or environmentally sensitive area; or within twenty (20) feet of any coastal waters or streams ...”

*The proposed project work areas are not within 50 feet of a coastal bluff or within 20 feet of a stream.*