

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Riverside County

4080 Lemon St, Riverside, CA 92501

(951) 955-6200

From: (Public Agency): Nicole Greenberg (GHD)

320 Goddard Way, Suite 200

Irvine, CA 92618

(Address)

Project Title: Glen Ivy Tank Disinfection Project

Project Applicant: City of Corona Utilities Department

Project Location - Specific:

8965 Glen Ivy Rd, Corona, CA

Project Location - City: Corona

Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of Corona (City) provides water service to residents and businesses within its service area from surface water sources and local groundwater supplies. The City's Glen Ivy Reservoir site, located at 8965 Glen Ivy Rd, was completed in 1979 and features a 500,000-gallon welded steel potable water storage tank. The cylindrical tank has a diameter of 60 feet and a height of approximately 25 feet. The Project involves reactivating wells, (SW-03, SW-20, SW-21) owned by the City of Corona. The wells deliver groundwater from the Coldwater Basin to the Glen Ivy Reservoir.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Corona Utilities Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Katie Hockett

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: CEQA Sec: 15301 and 15302
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:


Lead Agency

Contact Person: Dylan Goldsmith

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 951-739-4848

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:  _____ Date: 4/30/2024 Title: Senior Engineer

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: _____

April 30, 2024

To	Riverside County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk AND California State Clearinghouse	Contact No.	(951) 279-3601
From	The City of Corona Utilities Department Kaitie Hockett, Assistant Director of Utilities	Email	Katie.Hockett@CoronaCA.gov
Project Name	Glen Ivy Tank Disinfection Project		
Subject	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption (NOE)		

1. Introduction

A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance review was performed for the City of Corona Glen Ivy Disinfection System (Project). This memorandum provides a brief description of the Project, summarizes the CEQA exemption that the Project qualifies for, and reports the findings of supporting documentation.

2. Project Background and Description

The City of Corona (City) provides water service to residents and businesses within its service area from surface water sources and local groundwater supplies. The City's Glen Ivy Reservoir site (Global Positioning Coordinates: 33.758367, -117.489293), located south of Glen Ivy Road, was completed in 1979 and features a 500,000-gallon welded steel potable water storage tank (33.762687, -117.487649). The cylindrical tank has a diameter of 60 feet and a height of approximately 25 feet. This water infrastructure project includes demolishing the existing 500,000-gallon water tank and upgrading the existing well disinfection systems for three existing groundwater wells (SW-03, SW-20, SW-21) that have been inactive for several years. The Project will also include demolishing an existing auxiliary wooden plank building (approximately 750 sq. ft.) and replacing it with a new in-kind concrete masonry unit (CMU) building, within the existing building footprint. The wells previously delivered groundwater from the Coldwater Basin to the Glen Ivy Reservoir. The City of Corona intends to reactivate the wells in compliance with California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water disinfection requirements.

In addition to the well reactivation, the Project will include the addition of cartridge filtration and a pipeline chlorine contactor within an existing 250-foot-wide easement that runs east-west from the reservoir site.

A summary of the preliminary design approach is as follows:

- Install cartridge filters and pipeline chlorine contactor within established property and easement boundaries with connections to existing infrastructure.
- Reroute sodium hypochlorite feed to a point upstream of the filters and to a point downstream of the chlorine contact pipeline.

- Reroute ammonia feed to a point downstream of the pipeline contactor and free chlorine analyzer.
- Install a free chlorine analyzer upstream of the filters, after chlorine addition.
- Install free chlorine, pH and temperature analyzers downstream of the contactor prior to chlorine and ammonia addition.
- Install a total chlorine analyzer downstream of ammonia addition.
- Resize the chlorine and ammonia dosing pumps.
- Demolish the existing storage tank associated pipes, and appurtenances.
- Restore the site (e.g., landscaping, access roads, fencing), as necessary.

3. Review for CEQA Exemption

The Project was reviewed relative to the CEQA Guidelines to determine if it qualifies under a class of projects that has been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which may be exempted. The Project meets the criteria for a Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions, which are described below.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301: Existing Facilities

The Class 1 Categorical Exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alternation of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible, or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of "existing facilities" of the Class 1 exemption are outlined below:

(a) Interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances.

(b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

(d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.

The proposed Project meets the criteria for the Class 1 exemption as the Project includes reactivating and upgrading well disinfection systems and demolition of the existing 500,000-gallon water storage tank onsite and replacing it with an underground serpentine pipe to perform water treatment processes.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction

The Class 2 Categorical Exemption includes the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities where the new structure will be located at the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity, as the structure replaced. Item (c) of the of the Class 2 exemption includes replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The proposed Project improvements meet the criteria for the Class 2 exemption, as the Project would include, the upgrading the well disinfection systems, as well as

the replacement of some equipment components that facilitate the operation and function of tanks and wells. The Project also qualifies for this Class 2 exemption as the proposed water infrastructure improvements include the removal of the existing 500,000-gallon water storage tank and the construction of a new underground serpentine pipe to perform water treatment processes in a more efficient manner. Additionally, the Project will include the demolition of the existing wooden auxiliary building onsite and replacing it in-kind with a CMU building, which contains equipment that supports water treatment systems.

4. CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines includes a list of circumstances in which a Categorical Exemption cannot be used. The list of circumstances in which a Categorical Exemption cannot be used include the following:

- a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where a project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are considered to apply in all instances, except where a project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
- b) Cumulative Impact. All Classes of exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place over time is significant.
- c) Significant Effect. The CEQA Guidelines state that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- d) Scenic Highways. The CEQA Guidelines state that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
- e) Hazardous Waste Sites. The CEQA Guidelines state that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project located on a hazardous waste site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- f) Historical Resources. The CEQA Guidelines state that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

As part of this review for exemption, the Project was evaluated against each of the applicable exceptions, summarized below.

Exception 15300.2 (a) - Location

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(a) specifies that certain classes of exemptions are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located. A project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. The 15300.2(a) exception is not applicable to Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions and as such, this exception does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (b) - Cumulative Impact

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(b) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place over time is significant. Cumulative impacts are defined as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355).

A search was undertaken to identify reasonably foreseeable cumulative projects that may have overlapping or cumulative impacts with the Project. Efforts to identify cumulative projects included review of ongoing and planned projects near the Project area and within the City of Corona, including City Capital Improvement Projects and development projects. Upon evaluation of the City’s current Capital Improvement and other City Projects, there are not any projects located within the Project area. The nearest and most recently completed Capital Improvement Project is the Bedford Debris Removal Under Temescal Canyon Road Project (Project No. 2019-03), which was completed 2/28/2020. The proposed Project will not coincide with this nearby Project as all work will take place on and in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. No additional cumulative projects were identified on or in the vicinity of the Project. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(b) exception does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (c) - Significant Effect from Unusual Circumstances

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(c) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The Project is consistent with exempt classes of projects (Class 1 and Class 2) and does not include a feature that distinguishes it from others in the exempt classes, such as size or location. Construction and alteration/repairs are common features within the exempt class of projects. All structural upgrades and improvements will take place within the existing footprint of the existing water infrastructure. No new construction outside of the Project area footprint is proposed. The environment within the Project area is not unusually sensitive. The area contains an existing water storage tank and auxiliary wooden plank building. No critical habitat exists within the Project area and no occurrences of special-status plant species have been recorded in the Project area (USFWS, 2023; CNDDDB, 2023). The federally-listed coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) has been observed near the Project area, however, the most recent occurrence was documented in 1998, approximately 1 mile east of the Project area, near the Temescal Wash. It is unlikely that the coastal California gnatcatcher is present within the Project limits as the Project area contains previously developed land (i.e., asphalt and water infrastructure equipment). However, presence and or absence of the coastal California gnatcatcher should be confirmed by pre-activity field survey conducted by a qualified biologist. Furthermore, according to the National Wetlands Inventory, no wetlands or waters of the U.S., exist within the Project limits (NWI, 2023). Confirmation of jurisdictional waters should be verified by an onsite wetlands delineation performed by a professional wetland delineator.

The County of Riverside has implemented a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The overarching objective of this Plan is to preserve the biological and ecological diversity in a region experiencing rapid urbanization (Riverside County, 2023). The MSHCP empowers Riverside County and its constituent cities to exercise greater influence over local land-use decisions, thereby sustaining a robust economic environment within the area, all the while complying with the mandates of both the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. The Project may require light removal of some vegetation; however, impacts associated with any shrub or tree removal would be minimal. According to the Riverside County MSHCP Information Mapper, the Project areas does not contain protected lands or conservation areas for protected species and as such, impacts to any important natural resources or

protected species are not anticipated. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(c) exception is not applicable to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (d) - Scenic Highways

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(d) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State scenic highway. There are no officially designated State scenic highways in the Project area (Caltrans, 2018). Therefore, the exception under Section 15300.2(d) is not applicable to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (e) - Hazardous Waste Sites

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(e) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. To determine if any portion of the Project would be located on such a list, online data resources were reviewed that provided information on facilities or sites pursuant to Section 65962.5, as well as relevant reports to any listed hazardous waste sites (CalEPA 2023). These include:

- Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database;
- List of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites from the Water Board GeoTracker database;
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by the Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels;
- List of "active" Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders from the Water Board; and
- List of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

Based on the review of the above-mentioned lists, the Project is not included on a site that that is included on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, and no adjacent sites were identified where contamination may have extended onto surrounding areas. Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(e) exception does not apply to the Project.

Exception 15300.2 (f) - Historical Resource

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(f) specifies that a Categorical Exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The CEQA Guidelines define a historical resource as: (1) a resource listed in the California Register of Historical Resources; (2) a resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in the California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5020.1(k), or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g); or (3) any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record.

The Project is located entirely within the existing footprint of a City of Corona utility infrastructure development. The Project will require necessary water infrastructure improvements to comply with California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water disinfection requirements. According to the Corona Historic Preservation Society, the Project area is not designated as a historic resource under the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The State Office of Historic Preservation Built

Environment Resources Directory, which includes listings of the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, California State Points of Historical Interest, and the National Register of Historic Places, lists no recorded buildings or structures within or adjacent to the Project area. In addition, there are no City of Corona Historic Markers Sites within the Project area, nor is the Project area located within a City of Corona Historic District (City of Corona, 2023; CHPS, 2020). Based on the review, the Section 15300.2(f) exception does not apply to the Project.

5. Conclusion

The Project qualifies for a combination of Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions from CEQA under Sections 15301 and 15302 of the CEQA Guidelines. The environmental review and documentation reported above did not identify any significant effects that would occur from the Project, and the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines were found not to apply to the Project.

6. References

California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). 2023. Data Query Mapper. Available at:

<https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/myaccount/login?ReturnUrl=%2frarefind%2fview%2fRareFind.aspx>California

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2018. California State Scenic Highway Map.

<https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aa>
caa

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). 2023. Cortese List Data Resources.

<https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>.

City of Corona Planning Division (City of Corona). 2023. Historical Markers. Available at:

<https://www.coronaca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning-division/historical-markers>

Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS). 2020. Available at: <https://corona-history.org/index.html>

Riverside County Planning Department (Riverside County). 2023. Western Riverside County Multiple

Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Available at: <https://planning.rctlma.org/epd/wr-mshcp#:~:text=The%20Western%20Riverside%20County%20Multiple,habitats%20in%20Western%20Riverside%20County.>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2023. Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Map. Available at:

<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2023. Information for Planning and Consultation Online Mapper.

Available at: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). 2023. Surface Waters and Wetlands

mapper. Available at: <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>