

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From: Central Coast Water Authority
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427

Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Project Title: Santa Ynez Pumping Plant Surge Tank Pedestal Replacement Project ("Project")

Location – Specific: 2800 Mesa Verde Road, Santa Ynez, California 93460

Location – County: Santa Barbara

Description of Activity:

The Central Coast Water Authority ("CCWA") is responsible for delivering supplemental water supplies from the State Water Project to communities in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Water is in part conveyed through a pipeline from the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant ("SYPP") to Lake Cachuma. The SYPP is equipped with five 300-horsepower electric motor centrifugal pumps, and when operating at full capacity, pressure in the pipeline can reach 140-pounds-per-square inch. Large pressure transients can occur when pumping operations cease suddenly, such as in the event of an unplanned power outage, causing successive waves of high pressure through the length of the pipe. The SYPP is equipped with a surge tank system mounted on a steel-reinforced concrete pedestal, designed to attenuate the magnitude of pressure transients.

Through routine inspection, staff identified damage to the pedestal and retained AECOM Engineering to assess the damage and provide a design for repair. The proposed project will demolish and reconstruct the surge tank concrete pedestals at the SYPP. More specifically, the scope of work includes disassembly of the surge tank piping and safe storage, removal of the surge tanks and safe storage, demolition of the concrete pedestals, protection of in-place piping, construction of the concrete pedestals, paint and line the surge tank and associated piping, and re-installation of the surge tank and associated piping. It is anticipated that all work will be conducted over a six-week period.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Central Coast Water Authority

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption (Class 2, Section 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction)
- Statutory Exemption (Not a Project Under CEQA)


Reasons why activity is exempt:

The proposed Project is categorically exempt under Section 15302– Replacement or Reconstruction of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines because the Project involves the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities 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. Only the pedestals supporting the surge tank will be demolished and replaced, with the reconstructed

pedestals unremoved from the prior location and having like dimensions. The replacement pedestals will serve the same purpose of supporting the surge tank and have essentially the same capacity as the structures replaced. As such, it is not expected to impact the environment and falls under the categorical exemption from CEQA review outlined in Section 15302.

Agency Contact Person: Ray Stokes

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Signature: 
Ray Stokes

Date: 8-1-24

Title: Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: _____