

DEC 15 2024

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

ANGIE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

To: County Clerk
Kern County
1115 Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: West Kern Water District
P.O. Box 1105
Taft, CA 93268

Project Title: South Taft Water System Improvement Project, Phase VI

Project Location: Within the public right of way in the unincorporated area of South Taft, County of Kern. The project is divided into 5 pipeline segments 1) East side of Lierly Avenue from South Street to Crystal Street; 2) North side of Crystal Street from Lierly Avenue to Shattuck Avenue; 3) North side of Buena Vista Place from S 10th Street to alley between S 10th Street and Lierly Avenue; 4) East side of Shattuck Avenue from Wood Street to Pico Street; 5) North and West side of Q Street from South Street to Lierly Avenue. Interties will be made at six (6) existing water mains; Q Street and South Street; South Street and Lierly Avenue, S 10th Street and Buena Vista Place, Wood Street and Alley of Lierly Avenue, Lierly Avenue and Crystal Street, and Shattuck Avenue and Pico Street.

Description of Activity: The activity consists of replacing the existing 2" & 3" steel water mainlines with approximately 4100' of 8" plastic C-900 PVC watermain with appurtenances, relocating eighty-one (81) service connections, relocating 2 fire hydrants and installing 4 new fire hydrant assemblies within the public right of way. The new portions of the waterline will be connected to the existing waterlines with six (6) interties and continue to be used until all phases of this project are completed. The project replaces existing undersized and aging infrastructure while ensuring continued provision of essential services to the disadvantaged community.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: West Kern Water District

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial.
- Declared Emergency.
- Emergency Project.
- Categorical Exemption.** State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15303, & 15304
- Statutory Exemption.** Public Resources Code Division 13 Environmental Quality, Section 21080.21 & State Guidelines Section 15282 (k)

Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code section 21080.21(a)&(b) and State CEQA Guidelines section 15282(k) exempts from CEQA the installation of new pipeline or maintenance as long as the new pipeline does not exceed one (1) mile in length. Public Resources Code Section 21080.21 also exempts "accessories or appurtenances" to a pipeline, such as mains, traps, vents, cables, conduits, vaults, valves, flanges, manholes and meters. The Project is thus statutorily exempt from CEQA.

25343
Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 12-16-2024
and for 30 days thereafter. Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

Additionally, the Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines section 15303, which exempts the “construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; (and) installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures”. Notably, Section 15303 exempts “water main and other utility extensions of reasonable length to serve such construction.” Thus, to the extent the Project results in the construction of pipelines, lateral facilities, meters, and other small, onsite facilities, this construction is categorically exempt from CEQA.

The Project is also categorically exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines section 15301, which exempts “minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.” Here, to the extent the Project will result in the installation of potable water pipeline extensions, all such pipelines will be installed in streets. The minor alteration of these streets to install pipelines and related accessories is categorically exempt from CEQA. (State CEQA Guidelines § 15301)

The Project is further categorically exempt under State CEQA Guidelines section 15304, which exempts minor trenching and backfilling where-as here-the surface will be restored. (State CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (f)). To the extent trenching will be required to install pipelines and related structures, the surface will be restored after the pipelines and related accessories are installed. The Project is thus exempt from CEQA.

West Kern Water has determined, based on substantial evidence, that none of the exceptions to Class 1, 3, or 4 categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply here.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Wendy Adams-Rosenberger Telephone (661) 763-3151

Signature:  Title: Regulatory Admin Date: 12-12-2024

Signed by Applicant