

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260
P.O. Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

From: Vista Irrigation District
1391 Engineer Street
Vista, CA 92081-8836

Project Title: 486 Zone Pressure Relief Facility

Project Location - Specific: The project is located within the City of Vista near its western boundary along State Route 78. It is located adjacent to the west side of South Emerald Drive's paved roadway within a gravel area of the right-of-way, adjacent to the north side of the headwall for Buena Vista Creek's culvert underneath South Emerald Drive, approximately 750 feet south of State Route 78.

Project Location - City: Vista **Project Location - County:** San Diego

Description of Project: Vista Irrigation District (District) to install a new vault, pressure relief valve and piping to the existing water distribution system that will allow emergency discharges to Buena Vista Creek (and prevent pipeline failures) should the pressure zone become over-pressurized due to a mechanical failure from one of the supplying pressure-reducing valves. Emergency discharges have been permitted by the District's Statewide General Permit WOO-2014-0194-DWO since January 2017, and so the only new activity proposed by the Project is installation of new equipment. Emergency discharges will fill a vault that will overflow and spill over the existing headwall into Buena Vista Creek. The new relief valve will be connected to the District's SCADA system to allow early detection if activated.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Vista Irrigation District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, CA 92081-8836

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Vista Irrigation District

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: Sections 15301, 15303, and 15307
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project is exempt from CEQA per sections 15301, 15303, and 15307 of the CEQA Guidelines. Section 15301, Existing Facilities, exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The Project qualifies for this exemption because it involves installation of new vaults, pressure relief valve, and piping to address emergency situations and will not increase the capacity or throughput of the water distribution system or increase discharges to Buena Vista Creek. Section 15303, New Construction, consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities, structures, or equipment. The Project qualifies for this exemption because it consists solely of the installation of new, small vaults and piping with emergency equipment into an existing water distribution system. Section 15307, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for

Protection of Natural Resources, consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. The Project qualifies for this exemption because the work is necessary to properly provide safe drinking water by preventing damage to the distribution system. Any emergency discharges to Buena Vista Creek related to this modification are already permitted under the District's NPDES permit with the State Water Resources Control Board for discharges to waters of the United States, and no new discharges or increased discharges will result from this Project. Any discharges will be accounted for in the District's annual reporting to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

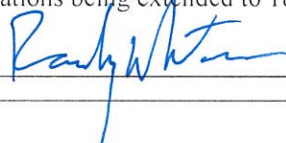
Lead Agency Contact Person: Randy Whitmann **Telephone/Extension:** (760) 597-3187

The General Manager X Director of Engineering Board of Directors approved the above described project on March 24, 2025, and found that the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? X Yes No

Submission of this form is optional. Local agencies may file this form with the County Clerk pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). The filing of the notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project under Public Resources Code Section 21167(d). Failure to file the notice results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

Signature:  Date: 3/24/25 Title: Director of Engineering