

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:**

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

**From:**

California Department of Water Resources  
770 Fairmont Ave, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

County Clerk: Riverside County

38686 El Cerrito Road, Palm Desert, CA 92211

**Project Title:** Drilling and Construction of Monitoring Well MC-5, Mission Creek Subbasin

**Project Applicant:** State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

**Project Location – County:** Riverside County

**Project Location - Specific:** The proposed project site is located on private property owned by the Mission Springs Water District within the city of Desert Hot Springs in Riverside County. The drilling will occur in a flat open space between a road and desert wash at the location with coordinates: 33.976379 degrees North, -116.544123 West (WGS 1984). The parcel's APN is 661-030-026 located at Section 23 of Township 2 South, Range 4 East of the "Desert Hot Springs" USGS 7.5' quadrangle.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services Program proposes to drill and install one single-completion monitoring well in the Mission Creek Subbasin in cooperation with the landowner, Mission Springs Water District. The purpose of the well is to fill data gaps within the groundwater monitoring network and provide hydrogeologic data. Construction of the well is anticipated to last 3-4 weeks.

Drilling will consist of initially setting a 14-inch by 20-foot temporary conductor casing to advance a 10-inch-diameter boring. The monitoring well will be drilled up to 500 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the shallow aquifer zone. Geophysical surveys will be performed within the boring including: natural gamma ray; spontaneous potential; short-normal, long-normal and point electrical resistivity logs; vertical deviation; and a caliper survey. After the geophysical logs have been completed and formation samples evaluated, DWR will construct a target well screen of 200-300 feet bgs and seal for the location.

All drill cuttings will be stockpiled on-site with the potential for re-use. Fluid and drill cuttings are expected to be nonhazardous and will be sampled and analyzed for constituents for concern prior to disposal. Should soil testing within the drill cutting reveal contaminants of concern above threshold levels, cuttings are to be disposed of at a designated waste facility. All drilling fluids and borehole water will be containerized in plastic lined roll-off bins and disposed of at a designated waste facility unless otherwise specified by DWR or Mission Springs Water District.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** State of California Department of Water Resources

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** State of California Department of Water Resources

**Exempt Status:** Categorical Exemptions: Information Collection, Class 6, 15306, Title 14 CCR.

**Reason why project is exempt:** The proposed Project is categorically exempt under Class 6, Section 15306 because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a significant impact to an environmental resource. A preconstruction survey was conducted which revealed no sensitive resources on the proposed Project site except for one observed burrowing owl, a candidate endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act. Appropriate avoidance measures will be implemented as outlined by the CDFW 2012 *Staff Report for Burrowing Owl Mitigation*, to avoid any impact on the special-status species. Overall, no significant impacts are anticipated for biological, air quality, noise, visual, water quality, land surface, or historic and archaeological resources.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Nicholas Burgos

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 818-621-6732

**If filed by applicant:**

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

**Signature:** Thang Nguyen **Date:** 3/27/2025 **Title:** Southern Region Manager

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.