

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of San Bernardino 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Fl. San Bernardino, CA 92415	FROM: Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency P.O. Box 517 121 Palomino Dr. Big Bear City, CA 92314 Phone: (909) 584-4018
Project Title:	Adoption of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and Approval of Repair, Maintenance and Pre-Construction Activities.
Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (“BBARWA”) service area (map of location where projects will occur is attached)
a) Project Location – City:	Big Bear City
Project Location – County:	County of San Bernardino
Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	Adoption of the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (the “Budget”), which includes funding for five projects to maintain or replace existing equipment, purchase small equipment, and engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear (“Budget”). The five potential projects include: 1) replacement of the information technology (IT) system production host and backup appliance, 2) rehabilitation of auxiliary pump 1, 3) return activated sludge (RAS) header replacement 4) rehabilitation of the oxidation ditch wall, and 5) performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear (“RBB, BBARWA’s Wastewater Treatment Upgrades Project”), (collectively, “Proposed Approvals”).
Name of Public Agency approving project:	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency P.O. Box 517 121 Palomino Dr. Big Bear City, CA 92314 Phone: (909) 584-4018
Exempt status: (check one)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15378
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15273
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15301, 15302, 15303
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)
Reason why project was exempt:	The March 26, 2025 approval of the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-4) is not a CEQA “project,” because the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-

	<p>4) will not result in any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts under State CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Further, the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-4) are not subject to CEQA review, because it can be seen with certainty that they have no potential to impact the environment under State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).</p> <p>Additionally, and even if the Budget and the Proposed Approvals (projects 1-4) are a CEQA “project,” they are still categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15311 because the Budget and the Proposed Approvals involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing today pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15301;</li> <li>• the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, which will be located on the same site have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure or facility replaced pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15302;</li> <li>• the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15303.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, none of the “exceptions” to the categorical exemptions apply under State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2.</p> <p>As to RBB (i.e., project 5), the approval of the Budget does not constitute an approval of the RBB Program as a whole, but rather allows BBARWA to approve the Budget for performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities. Lastly, the Budget is exempt from under State CEQA Guidelines § 15273 since the Budget includes rate adjustments to maintain service within existing service areas.</p>
Contact Person:	David Lawrence
Telephone:	(909) 584-4018

Date Received for Filing:

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Signature (Lead Agency Representative)/Title  
David Lawrence, General Manager

(Clerk Stamp Here)

## Project Location Map

### Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Project List

- (1) Replacement of the IT system production host and backup appliance
- (2) Rehabilitation of auxiliary pump 1
- (3) Replacement of the return activated sludge header
- (4) Rehabilitation of the oxidation ditch wall
- (5) Performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear

