

#307-19

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

Notice of Exemption

To: ☒ Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Cruz
Governmental Center
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

☐ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: City of Santa Cruz Water Department, 212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Title: Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Pilot Testing at Beltz 8 and Monitoring Well Installation

Project Address:

Two monitoring well locations (Soquel Point and Beltz Well No. 8 facility) and an off-site staging area in the Live Oak area of Santa Cruz County, as shown on the attached figures (Figures 1-3).

Assessor's Parcel No(s):

032-021-31
032-242-10
032-032-22



City of: Santa Cruz

County of: Santa Cruz

Project Description: The City of Santa Cruz Water Department (City) seeks to conduct a pilot test at the City's existing Beltz 8 well facility along with installing two monitoring wells at two separate locations in the Live Oak area of Santa Cruz County. The pilot test will be conducted in accordance with the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) General Waste Discharge Requirements set forth by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Quality Order 2012-0010). The first well to be installed, the Beltz 8 Monitoring Well (Beltz 8 MW), would be located at the City's existing Beltz Well 8 facility. The second well, the Soquel Point Monitoring Well (SP-5 MW), would be located at Soquel Point, where two existing monitoring wells are currently located, one of which is a clustered monitoring well capable of measuring at various depths.

The ASR pilot test at Beltz 8 would involve three repeated ASR cycles at varying durations. The third cycle, if results are favorable and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water, would send recovered water to the City's drinking water distribution system as it does with typical Beltz 8 operations. Several temporary modifications at the Beltz 8 facility are necessary for implementation of the ASR pilot test, including the following:

- Removal of the existing 20 HP pump assembly and installation of a temporary 30 HP pump and injection drop tubes.
- Connection of temporary injection supply pipeline to the City's distribution system as the source of the injection water (injectate).
- Setup of backflush water and recovered test water pipelines.
- Setup of connection to existing on-site reclaim tanks for backflush water solids settling and dichlorination prior to discharge to storm drain.

The proposed Beltz 8 MW would supplement the monitoring network, as part of an ongoing ASR feasibility study to assess the viability of diverting excess surface water to the local groundwater basin.

Findings, if favorable, would provide baseline data for a full-scale ASR project. The proposed SP-5 MW would allow for collection and monitoring of water level and water quality data from the Santa Margarita Sandstone aquifer. The existing wells at Soquel Point are completed in the shallower Purisima Formation. The location of the Beltz 8 MW and SP-5 MW sites, along with an off-site staging area, can be seen on Figure 1 through Figure 3.

The completion of the Beltz 8 MW would be identical to that of the existing Beltz Well 8, with a total casing depth of 190 feet and the casing consisting of 2-inch diameter schedule 40 PVC. SP-5 MW would be completed with 3-inch diameter schedule 80 PVC casing to a depth of approximately 950 feet. Drilling at both sites would be performed using the direct rotary method with bentonite based fluid. The Beltz 8 MW site is spacious and self-contained, allowing for easy drilling operation accommodations. There would be little to no impact to the surrounding environment. The SP-5 MW site is in a public area with a prominent recreational trail with a pedestrian and bicycle trail and a busy single lane of vehicular traffic and residents and restaurant/shop uses directly adjacent. An approximately 4,800 square foot work area around the proposed SP-5 MW location would be barricaded off including a shifting of the traffic pattern by approximately 10 feet. The City would implement traffic control during construction activities and security fencing would be installed to keep pedestrians away from safety hazards of the work area.

Two separate well permits, one for each proposed well, would be required from the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services Agency. An encroachment permit would be required from the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works for SP-5 MW.

A watertight manhole would be installed post monitoring well completion at each site. The manhole would be securely cemented into place and completed above ground surface to prevent ponding around the well. The manhole would be installed as to permit easy access for instrumentation, monitoring, or sampling. A water-tight locking well cap would be installed to secure the monitoring well casings and prevent contamination of the wells. The Beltz 8 and SP-5 MWs would be used to track water quality and water levels for groundwater management purposes.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Santa Cruz Water Department

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Cruz

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(1); 14 Cal Code Regs §15268).
- ☒ Categorically Exempt (14 Cal Code Regs §15306).
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(3); 14 Cal Code Regs §15269(a)).
- ☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); 14 Cal Code Regs §15269(b)(c)).
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (Code/Section NA).
- ☐ The project clearly will not have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal Code Regs §15061(b)(3)).

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines §15306, Information Collection, for scientific data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance of an environmental resource. Furthermore, the additional wells do not represent any appreciable intensification of the original approved use under Coastal Permit 121137. Categorical Exemptions (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2) would apply to the project.

In addition, no exceptions to Categorical Exemptions (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2) would apply to the project. Additionally, the project is not barred by the exceptions for taking a Categorical Exemption (14 Cal Code Regs §15300.2):

- Although the proposed construction of SP-5 MW occurs within the Santa Cruz County Coastal Zone, construction activities would be temporary and the project has been designed to be isolated within an existing facility footprint. No permanent impacts to sensitive, scenic, or coastal resources would occur.
- The ASR pilot and the installation of these two wells would not result in a cumulative impact of successive projects over time because one project is fully contained within a facility footprint and the second, while in a public space, construction activities would be temporary and isolated. No other projects are known in the area and while the area is a popular recreation spot, activities would be contained to minimize the potential for impact.
- Installation of the Beltz 8 and SP-5 MWs would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Additionally, no significant impacts to cultural resources are expected as result of the ASR project due to unusual circumstances.
- The study would not damage scenic resources within a scenic highway. The site is not near or within the viewshed of a designated scenic highway. Soquel Point is a popular vista point, however the proposed construction would be temporary and contained and there would be no permanent impact to the viewshed upon completion of the well. There would be no change to the viewshed as a result of Beltz-8.
- The study sites are not located on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (Cortese List), as verified on October 19, 2018.
- The study is not anticipated to cause an adverse change to a historical resource. There are no known cultural or historic resources in the area and no structures would be affected.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Heidi Luckenbach

Phone: (831) 420-5214

Department: City of Santa Cruz Water Department

Address: 212 Locust Street, Suite C
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Signature: Heidi R. Luckenbach

Date: 12/10/2019

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Title: Deputy Water Director/Engineering Manager

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing at County Clerk: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date Received for Filing at OPR: DEC 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING Dec-10 2019
AND ENDING Jan-09 2020



0 0.25
Scale, Miles

FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION MAP
2019/2020 Monitoring Well Project
City of Santa Cruz Water Department

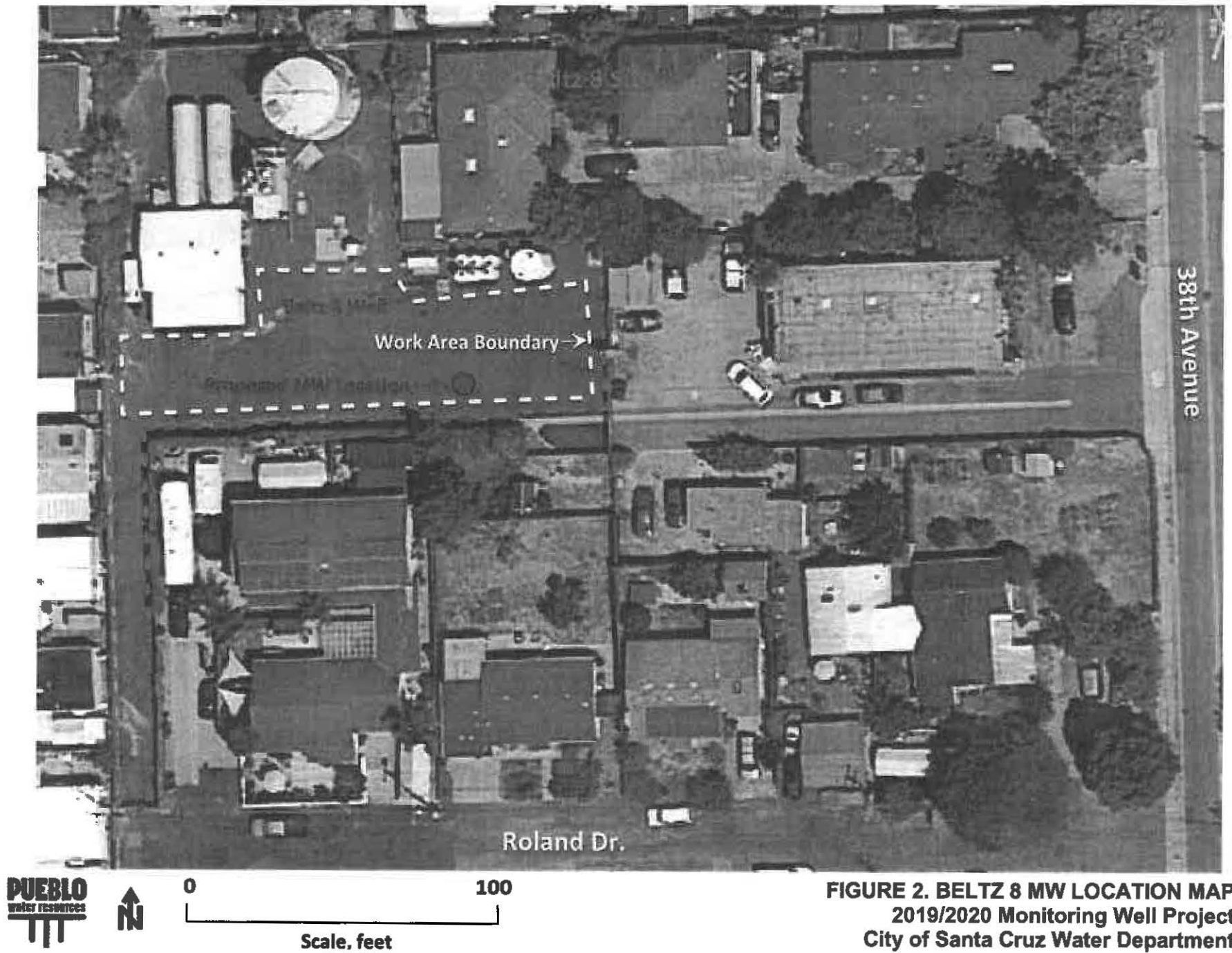
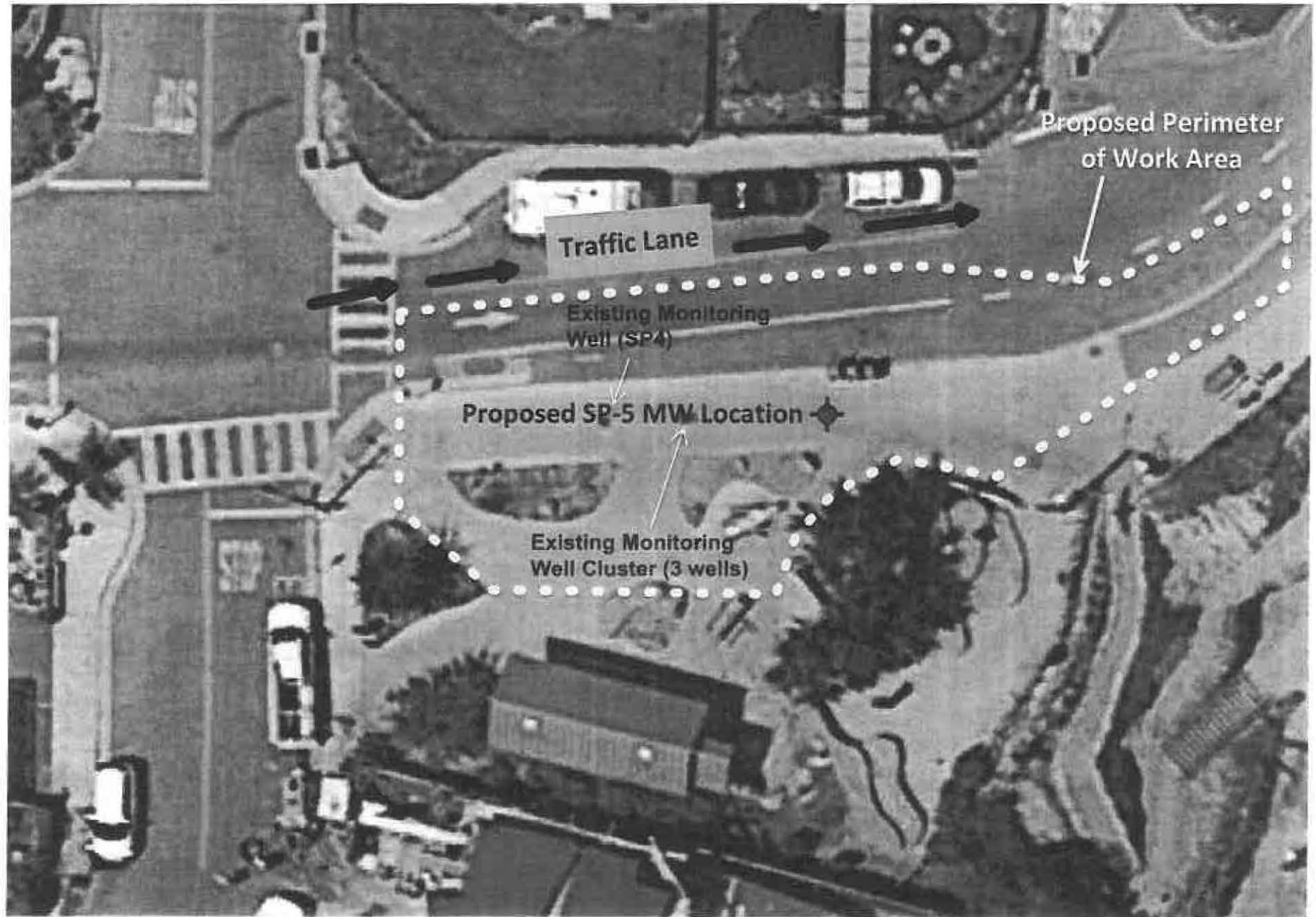


FIGURE 2. BELTZ 8 MW LOCATION MAP
2019/2020 Monitoring Well Project
City of Santa Cruz Water Department





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2019 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 12/01/18) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print **Start Over** **Finalize & Email**

RECEIPT NUMBER:

44 — 12102019 — 331

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY City of Santa Cruz Water Dept.	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.org	DATE 12102019
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Cruz	DOCUMENT NUMBER 307-19	

PROJECT TITLE

Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) Pilot Testing at Beltz 8 and Monitoring Well Installation

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Heidi Luckenbach	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL hluckenbach@cityofsantacruz.org	PHONE NUMBER (831) 420-5214
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 212 Locust St., Ste. C	CITY Santa Cruz	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95060

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,271.00	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,354.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,112.00	\$	0.00

☐ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	0.00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☒ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Cheryl M. Williams, Senior Board Clerk