



2019120305

California Environmental Quality Act: Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

From: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

Project Name: Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program

Project Location - Specific: Bard Unit (see attached map)

Project Location - City: Winterhaven

Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has approved entering into a seven-year Seasonal Fallowing Program with the Bard Water District. The Program would entail the temporary, seasonal (April through July) fallowing of farmland within the Bard Unit. Farmland would be fallowed by farmers within the Bard Unit who would voluntarily enter into agreements with Metropolitan under which Metropolitan would monetarily compensate those participants for temporarily fallowing farmland. This temporary, seasonal fallowing would reduce the Colorado River water used for irrigation in the Bard Water District, making increased water supplies available to be diverted into the Colorado River Aqueduct by Metropolitan. The program will not change the existing operational capacity of the Colorado River Aqueduct or result in an expansion of its use.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Exempt Status: (check as applicable)

- ☐ Ministerial (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines
- ☐ Not a Project (Public Resources Code § 21065, State CEQA Guidelines § 15378)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines
- ☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(2); State CEQA Guidelines
- ☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines
- ☒ Categorical Exemption, Class 1, State CEQA Guidelines §15301,
Class 4, State CEQA Guidelines §15304,
- ☐ Statutory Exemption, State CEQA Guidelines
- ☒ Other, State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed action involves the temporary, seasonal fallowing of agricultural land along with minor modifications in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. These activities would result in negligible or no expansion of use of public or private facilities or features and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: Diane Doesserich at (213) 217-7211

Signature:

Jennifer Harriger

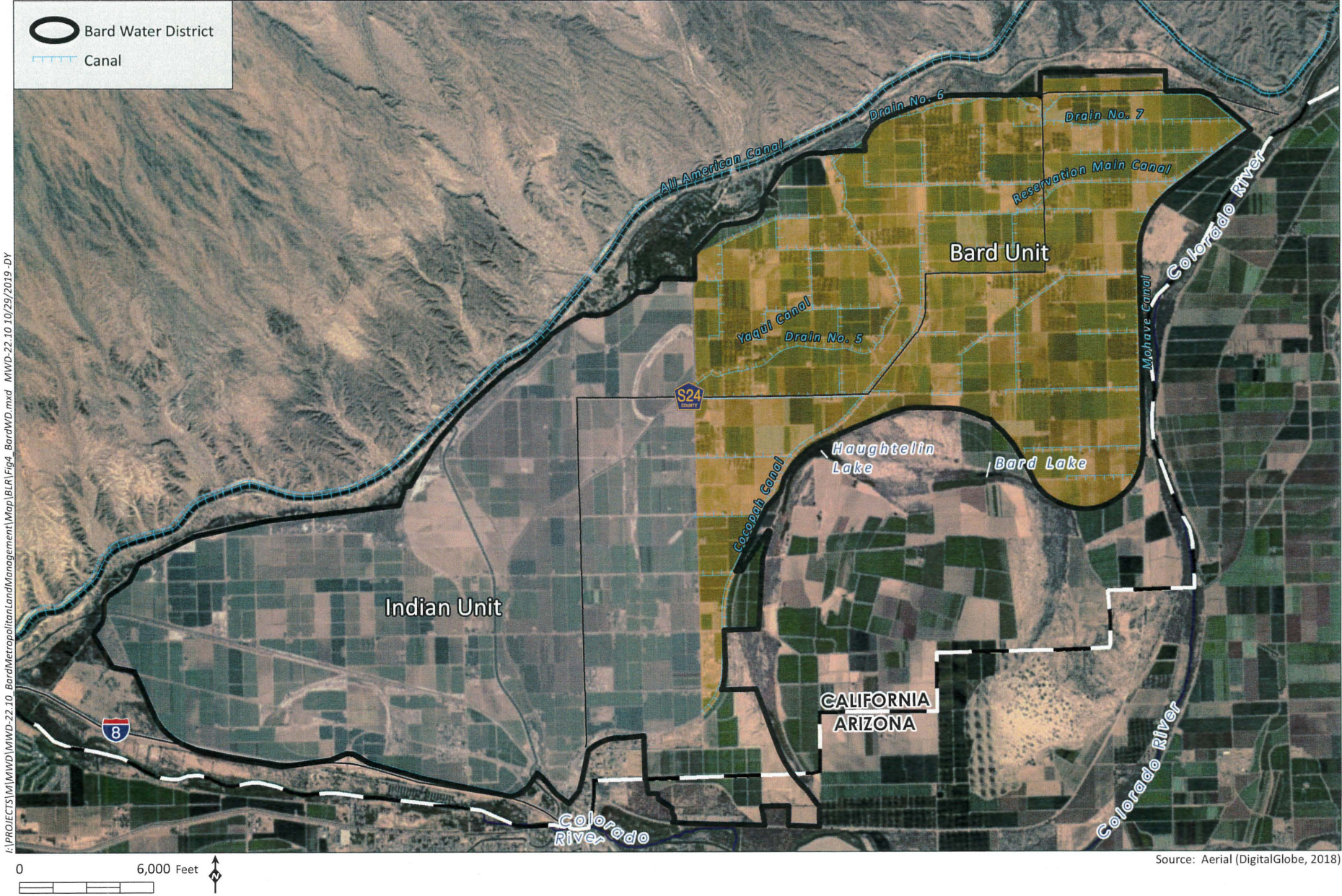
Jennifer Harriger, Interim Manager, Environmental Planning Section
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Office of Planning & Research
Date: December 10, 2019

DEC 12 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Date received for filing:



Bard Water District

Figure 1



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 217-6000 <http://mwdh2o.com>

Notice of Exemption Submittal

December 10, 2019

FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Scott Morgan, Director
Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Name: **Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program**

Filing As: ☐ Lead Agency ☒ Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Diane Doesserich at (213) 217-7211

Enclosures: ☒ Original NOE
☒ Location Map

Comments: In accordance with Section 15062 of the State of California Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act, this NOE is provided for posting by your office for a period of 30 full calendar days.

Ref: Board Letter

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