



2019120589

## 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:** Amendments to Exchange Agreements with Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District

**Project Location - Specific:** No specific physical location; throughout Metropolitan's service area and the service areas of Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District

**Project Location - City:** multiple

**Project Location - County:** multiple

**Description of Project:** Metropolitan, Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District will amend existing exchange agreements. Amendments include Consolidating the exchange agreement amendments among Coachella, Desert, and Metropolitan into one restated agreement; Eliminating the 100,000 AF Table A State Water Project (SWP) call-back provision; Providing Metropolitan the flexibility to deliver water in dry years; More equitably sharing SWP operational risks and benefits; Sharing water management costs among the three parties; and Amending the Coachella 35,000 AF exchange agreement to provide greater flexibility in making exchange deliveries.

**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, Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District

**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
- ☐ Statutory Exemption, State CEQA Guidelines
- ☒ Other, State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), §15378(b)(5)

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (PRC 21065, Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5)) because it involves organizational or administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment. Additionally, 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 (Section 15061(b)(3) of the state CEQA Guidelines).

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Sean Carlson at (213) 217-6276 *Office of Planning & Research*

**Signature:**

  
Sean Carlson, Team Manager, Environmental Planning Section  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**DEC 23 2019**

**Date:** December 10, 2019



**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 20, 2019

**FEDERAL EXPRESS**

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

Project Name: **Amendments to Exchange Agreements with Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District**

Filing As: ☒ Lead Agency ☐ Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Sean Carlson at (213) 217-6276

Enclosures: ☒ Original NOE

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 WRM12669000

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**DEC 23 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**