

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2020050465

FROM: Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

TO: California State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Prado Basin Monitoring Wells Project

Project Location: The Project would be located within Prado Basin, a reservoir located behind Prado Dam. Generally, Project would occur east of the State Route (SR) 71 freeway and north of the SR-91 freeway in Riverside County near the City of Corona.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed Project consists of the installation and operation of ten (10) shallow monitoring wells within the Prado Constructed Wetlands on Orange County Water District (OCWD) property in Riverside County. The purpose of the project is to monitor the groundwater quality within Prado Basin. Well construction is proposed to begin during the summer of 2020 and early fall periods because the well sites are expected to be submerged and inundated by the Santa Ana River during the winter storm season.

Each shallow monitoring well would be installed using the hollow stem auger drilling method to anticipated depths between 15 and 50 feet below ground surface (bgs). As necessary, OCWD would clear the proposed well site areas of vegetation to meet minimal equipment clearances to install the monitoring wells.

The monitoring wells will be constructed of 2-inch diameter schedule 40 PVC blank casing with estimated 10-foot-long horizontal slotted screens of the same material. The well design will also be composed of a 2-foot blank sump below the well screen with a bottom end cap. Annular backfill around the PVC well screen will be composed of a sand filter pack and bentonite seal on top followed by a cement sanitary seal to ground surface. The proposed monitoring wells will be generally accessible during the late spring through early fall to collect water quality and water level information.

Each well site location was selected to occur within areas previously disturbed by maintenance road activities or otherwise outside of areas containing sensitive vegetation. Further, each site was surveyed by an OCWD staff biologist to confirm that no sensitive habit would be affected by well construction activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Orange County Water District -
Attn: Shawn Nevill

Exempt Status: (Check One)

Not a Project (Section 15378)

Ministerial (Section 15268)

Feasibility and Planning Study (Section 15262)

Emergency Project (Section 15269)

X Categorical Exemption. (Class 3, Section 15303)

Not to be approved (Section 15270)

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project involves limited construction of narrow-diameter shallow wells at sites devoid of sensitive habitat and occurring within or adjacent to existing maintenance roadways and falls within Class 3 descriptions for a the new construction of small structures.

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding

2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?

X Yes No.

Signature: Shawn A

Contact Person: Shawn Nevill

Principal Planner (714) 469-5740

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 21 2020

Date Received for Filing: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Exhibit 1

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

18700 Ward Street

Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Name of Project: Prado Basin Monitoring Wells Project

Location: The Project would be located within Prado Basin, a reservoir located behind Prado Dam. Generally, Project would occur east of the State Route (SR) 71 freeway and north of the SR-91 freeway in Riverside County near the City of Corona.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Staff Determination: The staff of the Orange County Water District (District), having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

1. The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.

Name of Agency _____

2. The proposed action does not constitute a project within the meaning of Section 15378.

3. The project is a Ministerial Project under Section 15268.

4. The project is an Emergency Project under Section 15269.

5. The project constitutes a Feasibility or Planning Study under Section 15262.

6. The proposal will not be approved as provided in Section 15270.

7. The project is Categorical Exempt under Article 19 commencing with Section 15300 - Applicable Exemption Class 3.

Signature: 

Contact Person: Shawn Nevill, Principal Planner - (714) 469-5740

Date: May 21, 2020