

SOUTH OAST



WATER DISTRICT

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October 18, 2020

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

Re: Notice of Exemption

South Coast Water District – Joint Transmission Main (JTM) Improvements to
Vault CM-10

On July 17, 2019, South Coast Water District mailed the attached Notice of Exemption and have not received an acknowledgment of posting or receipt. We kindly request for the attachment to be posted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Principal Engineer Roman Obzejta at 949-499-4555, Ext. 3192.

Sincerely,

Jody Brennan
Clerk of the Board


Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 13 2020


STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT
Notice of Exemption**

2020100228

To:  Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT
31592 West Street
Laguna Beach CA 92651

 County Clerk Recorder
County of Orange
PO Box 238
Santa Ana CA 92702

Project Title: Joint Transmission Main (JTM) Improvements to Vault CM-10

Project Location – Specific: Near the intersection of Creek Road and Alton Parkway in the City of Irvine, CA.

Project Location – City: Irvine

Project Location – County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Joint Transmission Main (JTM) is a 60-inch water pipeline that was constructed in 1961 to convey potable water from a Metropolitan Water District (MWD) connection in Irvine, California to Bradt Reservoir and Schlegel Reservoir in San Clemente, California. Collectively, these facilities comprise the Joint Regional Water Supply System (JRWSS), a section of which is contract operated by South Coast Water District ("District"). The District plans to re-construct Vault C-10 to replace and upgrade the valves, flow meters, and electrical equipment. The vault is within a JTM easement in a vehicle parking area adjacent to Woodbridge Village Association Community Center, 31 Creek Road, Irvine, CA (Figure 1).

JTM Vault CM-10 is located beneath three vehicle parking spots and a grass median as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. Existing surface features include an access manway and meter/electrical cabinet. When completed the surface equipment and access manway would be similar to the existing features. The staging area for construction would occupy several parking spots as illustrated in Figure 1. Construction is expected to take approximately four months. One tree would be removed for construction and landscape features of the parking median would be restored following completion of construction.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: South Coast Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: South Coast Water District

Exempt Status (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 15073(b) and (c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15302 (Class 2) (c) categorically exempt replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. Section 15304 (Class 4) categorically exempt minor alterations to land.

Reason why project is exempt: See Attachment A

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rick Shintaku, General Manager

Area Code / Telephone / Extension: (949) 499-4555

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 13 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Signature

7/16/2019

Date

Title: General Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment A Supplemental Information

Biological Resources and Habitat

The existing CM-10 vault is located within a landscaped parking lot median. Landscaping consists of curbing, grass, a hedge, and several trees (Figure 2). Project construction will require excavation of the approximately 12x48 foot vault in a area that includes the median and three parking spots. Construction equipment and material storage will be located on adjacent pavement in the parking lot. The project site within a parking lot is an area without native or natural vegetation and does not provide habitat for any sensitive species. One tree would be removed for the project. Examination of the work area indicates there are no biological resource or habitat associated with the project that would require further environmental review.

Protection Measures

The project site is on level ground in a paved parking lot with established drainage protection features. The project includes preparation of an erosion control plan with specifications and measures to avoid potential water runoff and erosion from the construction equipment laydown, storage, and work area. These measures include implementation of Best Management Practices to prevent polluted discharges from entering streets, gutters, or storm drains.

Land Use and Site Access

Paved driveways provide site access from Creek Road into the paved parking area where the CM-10 vault site is located. The vault construction work will be conducted within a JTM easement on the parking facility. Prior to construction, the contractor will prepare a staging plan and pedestrian safety plan for approval by the District. Construction work will be temporary and there are no project activities that are incompatible with surrounding land uses.

Finding - CEQA (Exempt): The project is exempt from environmental review with the following findings:

- (a) CEQA Guidelines list classes of projects that have been determined to not have a significant effect on the environment and are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA.
 - Section 15302 (Class 2) (c) categorically exempt replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The upgraded valves, flow meters, and electrical equipment will not change the capacity or operation of the JTM in any way.
 - Section 15304 (Class 4) categorically exempt minor alterations to land. The proposed project consists of only minor alterations to land. When completed, the parking area landscaping and parking spots will be restored.
- (b) The CM-10 vault site is within a parking lot without natural or native vegetation that does not provide habitat for any sensitive species. No sensitive habitat or special status species would be adversely affected by the project.
- (c) Review by District staff indicates there are no unusual circumstances associated with the project or the property that would require further environmental review.

Site Photos



Figure 1. Location of JTM Vault CM-10, 31 Creek Road, City of Irvine, CA.



Figure 2. View looking northeast at location of JTM Vault CM-10.