

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

☒ County Clerk
County of Riverside
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502

☐ County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

☒ State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☐ County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

Project Title: Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 Process Optimization Project

Project Location: Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 is located at 63002 Fillmore Street in the unincorporated community of Thermal within Riverside County.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) will make improvements to the aeration technologies at its Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 (WRP4). The purpose of the optimization project is to replace a portion of the energy intensive surface aerators with more energy efficient equipment meeting specific operational and performance requirements and additional infrastructure to support the new equipment.

WRP 4 is comprised of two separate secondary treatment technologies including lagoon treatment and activated sludge treatment. The lagoon treatment system has a capacity of 7.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and is comprised of Modules 1 through 4. Each module is aerated with 16, 20 horsepower (HP) surface aerators for a total connected electrical load of 320 HP per module. The project will replace the 16 aerators in Module 4 with 12, 6 HP Lagoon Master aerators manufactured by Reliant Technologies. The Lagoon Master equipment is expected to achieve annual energy efficiency and will reduce maintenance activities at the site.

Construction activities for the replacement of the equipment would take approximately 6 months and will be contained within the fenced WRP4 site. The site is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Conservation Plan. The project is not subject to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments Local Development Mitigation Fee because the project location is a developed site.

Name of Lead Agency Approving Project: CVWD; Donnell Wilcox, Senior Engineer

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Not a project: State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- ☐ Review for Exemption "Common Sense" Exemption: State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- ☐ Ministerial (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1)) State CEQA Guideline §15262
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guideline §15269(b)(c))
- ☐ Statutory Exempt: State CEQA Guidelines § _____

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)

☒ Categorically Exempt: State CEQA Guidelines §§15301 and 15302

Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities – Class 1) allows for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project involves maintenance and alteration of the existing system at WRP4. There is no expansion of use included with this energy optimization project.

State CEQA Guidelines §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction – Class 2) allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The project involves the replacement of existing technologies for the same purpose, and will update the aeration system with a more efficient system to reduce annual energy costs and reduce maintenance activities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Elizabeth Meyerhoff, CVWD, Phone (760) 398-2651

Date: March 24, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maricela Cabral", is written over a horizontal line.

Maricela Cabral
Deputy Clerk of the Board
Coachella Valley Water District

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

File No: 0710.1810.09