

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: Adoption Canal Construction Meter Rates for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026

Project Location: Within Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) service area

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) conducted a public hearing and adopted rates for the Canal Fund based on the requirements of California Proposition 218. The rates adopted by the Board of Directors were based on the Canal Cost of Service Study (Carollo Engineers, Inc.). Based on the findings within this study, CVWD has determined to adjust the rate structure and increase the rates for the canal water service charges to enable it to: recover current and projected increases in the costs of operations and maintenance, including, capital infrastructure improvements (e.g., gate and pumping infrastructure), energy cost increases, personnel costs, supplies and services, equipment, and quagga mussel mitigation and regulation; comply with State and Federal mandated regulatory requirements; avoid operational deficits and depletion of reserves; and operate the utility in a financially prudent manner. The rates for the construction meter water commodity charge are proposed to take effect on August 1, 2021, and to be increased each July 1 thereafter through and including July 1, 2025.

Name of Lead Agency Approving Project: CVWD; Phone: (760) 398-2651

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption Status:

- ☐ **Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines § _____
- ☐ **Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- ☐ **Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- ☐ **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 §15273 (Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges)
- ☐ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines § _____

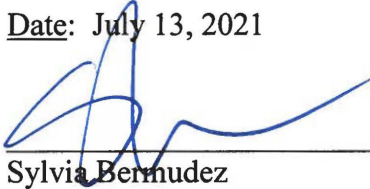
Reasons why project is exempt:

The action qualifies for a Statutory Exemption per the State CEQA Guidelines §15273, and is not subject to further environmental review. Per the State CEQA Guidelines §15273, CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of: (1) Meeting

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)

operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, (2) Purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials, (3) Meeting financial reserve needs and requirements, (4) Obtaining funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas, or (5) Obtaining funds necessary to maintain such intra-city transfers as are authorized by city charter. Approval of this action and the administration, operation, maintenance, and improvements of the canal water system, which is to be funded by the canal water service charges for construction meters are necessary to maintain service within CVWD's existing service area and would not expand the canal water system.

Date: July 13, 2021



Sylvia Bermudez
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: 0032.1