

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: Coachella Valley Water District's Palm Desert Campus Solar Power Project

Project Location: 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, California 92211 (Riverside County)

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) in contract agreement with Nobell Energy Solution, Inc. (Nobell), will install solar panels at CVWD's Palm Desert campus. The primary purpose of the project is to implement dual benefits to produce a renewable energy source through solar power energy generation to be used on-site, and provide shaded parking/carports for CVWD employee parking areas. Nobell will design, install, operate, and maintain a solar photovoltaic energy system on various carports/shade structures to be located within CVWD-employee parking areas and CVWD-vehicle parking areas. Nobell also plans on installing a battery energy storage system as a demand peak shaving device; thereby, lowering energy costs from Southern California Edison by generating renewable energy and shifting the time of use of energy from peak to lower rate periods through the use of battery storage. The solar power purchase agreement term is identified for 20 years from the service commencement date. The lease agreement involves an easement over a portion of the property. Construction is anticipated for the duration of up to six-months, requiring minimal excavation for the placement of structures and equipment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CVWD; Armando Rodriguez, Engineer Manager

Exempt 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 § _____
- ☒ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines §15301, 15303, 15311

Reasons why project is exempt:

This action is exempt from further review under CEQA pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, §15061, subdivision (b)(3) because there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment. The project will be located on an existing asphalt area of a

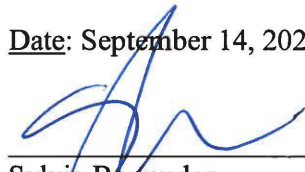
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parking lot at CVWD's administrative facilities and minimal grading will occur on adjacent landscaped areas.

Additionally, the Project action is exempt from further review under CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facility) because it consists of a minor alteration of an existing public facility involving negligible or no expansion of use of the site as a parking lot (solar panels mounted on carports); and CEQA Guidelines §15303 (New Construction and Conversion of Small Structures) because it consists of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small accessory structures (solar panels mounted on carports); and CEQA Guidelines §15311 (Accessory Structures) because it consists of the construction of minor structures (solar panels mounted on carports) as an accessory to existing facilities (CVWD's Palm Desert campus).

Agency Contact Person: William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor, CVWD; (760) 398-2651

Date: September 14, 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 Nos: 0075.20.1