NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:		Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk County of: Riverside	FROM:	Western Municipal Water District 14205 Meridian Parkway Riverside, CA 92518			
1.	Project	Title:	Arlington-Riverside Groundwater Sustainability Plan				
2.	cross st (prefera	Location – Identify street address and creets or attach a map showing project site ably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical entified by quadrangle name):	See attached map.				
3.	(a)	Project Location – City:	Riverside				
	(b)	Project Location – County:	Riverside				
4.	Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:		Western Municipal Water District (Western) developed a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Santa Ana Valley Riverside-Arlington Subbasin (Basin Number 8-002.03), also referred to as the Riverside-Arlington Subbasin. The Riverside-Arlington Subbasin is partially adjudicated under the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster, per the 1969 Western Judgement. The Watermaster manages groundwater under the adjudicated portion of the basin. Western elected to serve as the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for all portions of the Subbasin underlying (or within) Western's jurisdictional boundaries, which is also the portion of the basin that is unadjudicated and designated as a low priority basin by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Activities associated with planning, development, and preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Santa Ana Valley Riverside-Arlington Subbasin (Basin Number 8-002.03) include, but are not limited to, developing a data management framework, stakeholder engagement, and developing a planning document that builds upon past studies and data collected to establish current and historic groundwater conditions, develop a water budget that aligns with sustainable management and yield of the basin, and describes potential projects and management actions that will help the basin achieve sustainability.				
5.	Name o	of Public Agency approving project:	Western Municipal Water District				
6.	Name o	of Person or Agency carrying out project:	Western M	unicipal Water District			
7.	Exemp	Exempt status: (check one)					
	(a)	(a) Ministerial project.					
	(b)	Not a project.					
	(c)	Emergency Project.	1				
	(d)	Categorical Exemption. State type and class number:					

	(e)		Declared Emergency.						
	(f)	\boxtimes	Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	Water Code 10728.6; Public Resources Code 21065, 21080, 21081; Guidelines 15601 [common sense]					
	(g)		Other. Explanation:						
8.	Reason why project was exempt:			CEQA does not apply to the preparation and adoption of GSPs. (Water Code § 10728.6); DWR's issuance of the assessment does not represent an "approval" or "carrying out" of a "project" under CEQA. (Public Resources Code 21065, 21080, 21081); A GSA is not prohibited from implementing its GSP prior to evaluation and assessment by DWR. (Water Code 10733.4(d)); There is no possibility that DWR's issuance of the assessment may have a significant effect on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)); Even if CEQA applied to the issuance of the assessment or to the GSP itself, DWR believes several other exemptions likely apply to issuance of the assessment. Furthermore, DWR could not presently conduct meaningful environmental review under CEQA because it would require speculation and conjecture; however, SGMA does not exempt projects that would implement actions taken pursuant to a GSP, and DWR therefore expects GSAs will satisfy any applicable CEQA obligations when approving or carrying out projects as part of GSP implementation.					
9.	Contact I	Person:		Ryan Shaw					
	Telephor	ne:		951.571.7256					
10.	Attach P	relimina	ry Exemption Assessment (Form	"A") before filing.					
	eceived for			Signature (Lead Agency Representative)					
(Clerk S	Stamp Her	e)		<u>Director of Water Resources</u> Title					

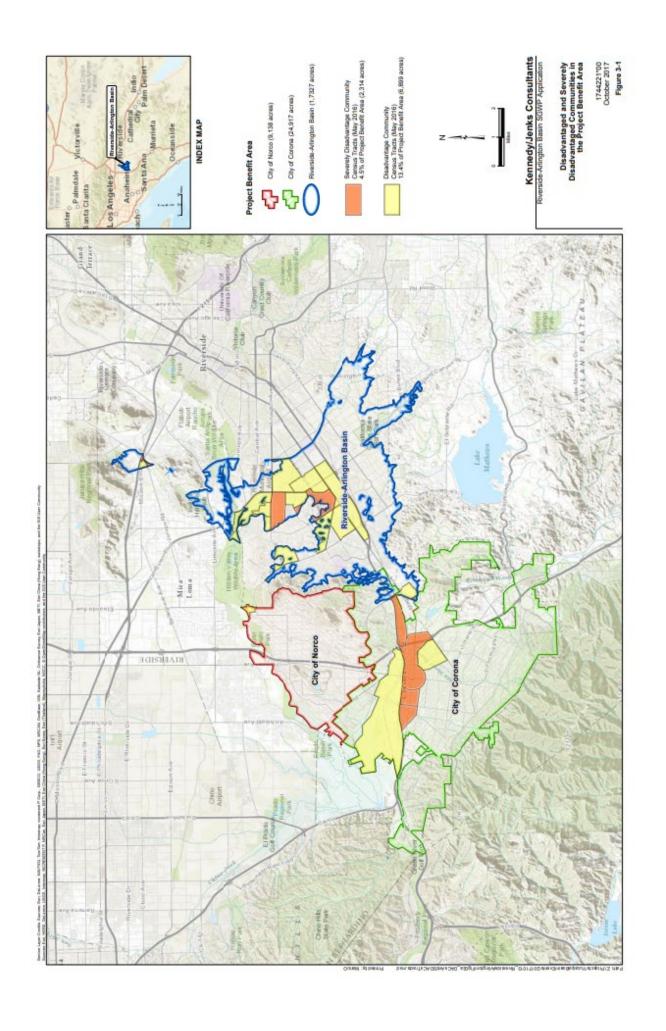
PRELIMINARY EXEMPTION ASSESSMENT

(Certificate of Determination When Attached to Notice of Exemption)

1.1	Name or descri	Arlington-Riverside Groundwater Sustainability Plan						
11.								
12.	address and cro map showing p a USGS 15' or	n – Identify street oss streets or attach a roject site (preferably 7 1/2' topographical by quadrangle name):	See attached	d map.				
13.	Entity or person	n undertaking project:	A. West	ern Municip	al Water District			
		B. Other	r (Private)					
		(1)	Name					
			(2)	Address				
14.	Staff Determination:							
	The Lead Agency's Staff, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the Lead Agency's "Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)" has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:							
	(a)	The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.						
	(b)	The project is a Ministerial Project.						
	(c)	The project is an Emergency Project.						
	(d)	The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.						
	(e)							
		Applicable Exemption	n Class:					
	(f) The project is statutorily exempt.							
		Applicable Exemption	n:	Water Coo	le § 10728.6			
	(g)	The project is otherwing on the following basis						
	(h) The project involves another public agend			c agency wh	ich constitutes the Lead Agency.			
		Name of Lead Agenc	y:					
			:					

Date: Frahulary 22,2022 Staff: Ryan Shaw

Ryan Shaw, Director of Water Resources



CEQA Notice of Exemption-Arlington GSP

Final Audit Report 2022-02-01

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By: Lisa Lemoine (Ilemoine@wmwd.com)

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