

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:**  
United Water Conservation District  
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200  
Oxnard, CA 93030

Ventura County Clerk  
800 South Victoria Ave  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Project Title:** Information Collection for the Proposed Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Project

**Project Location:** Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, Ventura County, California

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency):** United Water Conservation District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** United Water Conservation District

**Project Description:** United Water Conservation District (United) proposes to implement the Information Collection for the Proposed Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Project (Project), which will consist of land surveying, geotechnical exploration and technical information collection through hydrogeology, environmental (e.g., biological, cultural, paleontological), engineering, underground utility location and marking, and traffic control site surveys. Information collection may include additional specialists/ consultants and contractors; however, in any case, the surveys will involve no disturbances beyond these non-invasive components. The Project will also involve the construction of up to six (6) nests or clusters of up to four (4) monitoring wells each at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu to collect groundwater quality and level data in the semi-perched aquifer (up to 150 feet deep) and Oxnard aquifer (up to 250 feet deep) and may include deeper completions in the Mugu aquifer (up to 350 feet deep) or Fox Canyon aquifer (up to 800 feet deep). The monitoring wells will support groundwater sampling to document constituents in the unconfined and confined (target) aquifers in the Project area and create a groundwater quality baseline for comparison with future groundwater sampling results. The new monitoring wells are intended to confirm isolation of the waters of the semi-perched aquifer from the underlying confined aquifers under pumping conditions. Monitoring wells will be equipped with pressure transducers and data loggers. The timing of monitoring well installation will be between May 24 and November 7, 2023. Once installed, monitoring wells will be sampled on a routine basis.

The Project will also include geophysical and geotechnical investigations, which will be informed by the data collected during monitoring well installation. The technique and transect locations are currently undetermined but will likely involve electrical resistivity

techniques. Seismic reflection will likely not be a good option, but specific investigation methods will be determined with data collected during monitoring well drilling. Some minor ground disturbing activities will likely be needed in order to implement the geophysical study; however, these activities will occur in disturbed areas associated with NBVC Point Mugu.

Geotechnical exploration borings will be advanced using a hollow-stem auger. Soil samples will be collected using the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) and Modified California samplers. Some borings may be completed as temporary groundwater monitoring wells in the shallow perched aquifer zone. Borings in undeveloped areas will be backfilled with bentonite grout to within about 5 feet of the ground surface. Clean soil or gravel will be used to complete the borings to the surface. Borings in pavement areas will be patched with rapid-set concrete dyed black. Excess soil and water removed from the borings will be containerized in 55-gallon DOT drums. The drums cannot be transported until the contents are tested for off-hauling and disposal. Drums will be staged in an area agreeable to the Navy. Test pits may be excavated and sampled for characterization of shallow soils. Existing utilities in the area will be marked. Traffic control will be provided as needed. The timing of geotechnical exploration will be between December 7, 2022 and May 24, 2023.

The Project will incorporate best management practices (BMPs) designed to avoid impacts to sensitive natural resources in the vicinity. The BMPs include guidelines for Project implementation such as seasonal timing of work, delineating work and access boundaries, and maintaining a high level of environmental awareness through biological monitoring and worker environmental awareness training.

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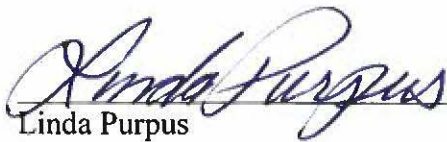
**Exempt Status:**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
  - ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
  - ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
  - ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: **Class 6, Section 15306 – Information Collection**
  - ☐ Statutory Exemptions
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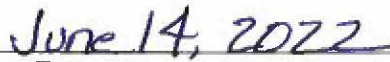
**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15306 *Information Collection* (Class 6). Section 15306 *Information Collection* consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Project will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Therefore, the *Information Collection* exemption is applicable.

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2, a project exempt under Class 6 that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. The District has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would apply.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Linda Purpus, Environmental Services Manager  
Telephone: 805-525-4431  
Email: [lindap@unitedwater.org](mailto:lindap@unitedwater.org)

  
Linda Purpus

Environmental Services Manager, United

  
Date

Date OPR received for filing: \_\_\_\_\_