NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk From: Otay Water District

County of San Diego 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd. 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260 Spring Valley, CA 91978-2096

San Diego, CA 92101

Project Title: Otay Water District Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

Project Location - Specific: The project will occur at nine different sites within the Otay Water

<u>District service area. See Table 1 below and Exhibit A for specific locations and addresses.</u> **Project Location – City:** Chula Vista, El Cajon, and unincorporated San Diego County

Project Location - County: San Diego

Description of Project: The proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure project (AMI project) will enable the Otay Water District (OWD) to automate its wireless transmission of water use data from AMI-enabled smart meters to OWD's upgraded meter data system and to customers via a cloud-based portal on a near real time basis. The project will eliminate the need for drive-by meter reading and allows the District and its customers to monitor water usage in real time. The work for this project will include the installation of two base stations and seven repeaters on nine different OWD-owned potable water reservoir sites. These sites are listed in Table 1 below:

| Table 1 | AMI Equipment Installation Sites | |
|----------|----------------------------------|---|
| AMI Unit | Site | Address |
| Base | 1090-1 Reservoir | 3029 Millar Ranch Road, Spring Valley, CA 91977 |
| Repeater | 850-2 Reservoir | 2105 Ledge Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91978 |
| Repeater | 944-1 Reservoir | 3102 Vista Diego Road, Jamul, CA 91935 |
| Repeater | 1200-1 Reservoir | 1700 Burris Drive, El Cajon, 92019 |
| Repeater | 1485-2 Reservoir | 15010 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935 |
| Base | 485-1 Reservoir | 997 Camino Del Sol, Chula Vista, CA 91910 |
| Repeater | 711-2 Reservoir | 1034 Park Meadows Road, Chula Vista, CA 91915 |
| Repeater | 624-2 Reservoir | 2024 Chateau Court, Chula Vista, CA 91913 |
| Repeater | 450-1R Reservoir | 1680 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, CA, 91911 |

Work at the seven repeater sites will include the installation of a 20-foot pole that includes a 5-foot repeater antenna at the top of the pole, mounted to the railing of the existing reservoir tanks. Minor trenching will occur at each of the seven repeater sites for electrical conduit installation within existing disturbed areas of the reservoir sites. The base station site work at the 1090-1 Reservoir will include the installation of a 50-foot pole with a 10-foot antenna mounted to the railing at the top of the reservoir tank. The 485-1 Reservoir base station site will have a 70-foot free-standing pole installed that includes the 10-foot antenna and will be located on the existing reservoir site, not attached to the reservoir tank. These two base station sites will also have minor trenching for electrical conduit installation within existing disturbed areas. The facilities are required to connect 24,000 existing AMI-capable meters to a new AMI network. Additional components of the project include the procurement and installation of 500 AMI-compatible meter box lid replacements and upgrades to the meter data and enterprise management software system to enable receipt, reading, processing of AMI data. The proposed improvements are consistent with existing uses at the sites and would not expand the capacity or function of the facilities. Construction equipment for

installation of the antennas and electrical conduits are anticipated to include a boom truck and/or crane, trenching machine and hand tools. Construction work will be conducted on weekdays between 8 AM and 4 PM, at the existing District reservoir sites in already disturbed areas. If work is conducted during the migratory bird breeding season, surveys will be carried out to ensure that there is no impact to nesting birds at those sites that are surrounded by vegetation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: <u>Otay Water District</u>

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: <u>Lisa Coburn-Boyd</u>, <u>Otay Water District</u>

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ 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 1, Section 15301 and Class 4, Section 15304.
- □ Statutory Exemption: (*state code number*):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA it meets the requirements of a Class 1 exemption under Section 15301 for the installation of the antennas, and a Class 4 exemption under Section 15304 for the minor trenching associated with the installation of electrical conduits. There are no unusual circumstances that would cause the proposed project to result in a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Lisa Coburn -Boyd, Otay Water District

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (619) 670-2219

Signature: Zisa Coloure-Boud Date: 8-8-22

Title: Environmental Compliance Specialist

