Irvine Ranch Water District
Notice of Determination

To:	☑	Orange County Clerk Recorder County Administration South 601 N Ross Street Santa Ana, CA 92701	☑	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814
From:		Irvine Ranch Water District P.O. Box 57000 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue Irvine, CA 92619-7000		

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

PROJECT TITLE: Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project **STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO.** 2019080009

PROJECT LOCATION - Specific: The project would be built within the IRWD service area at the site of the existing Syphon Reservoir, located in unincorporated County of Orange, California, on the northeast side of Portola Parkway between Bee Canyon Access Road and State Route 133.

PROJECT LOCATION - City/County: City of Irvine / Orange County, CA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project would increase the capacity of the existing recycled water reservoir from approximately 500 acre-feet (AF) to 5,000 AF. The project would replace the existing engineered dam with a new engineered dam, increasing the existing 59-foot dam height to 138 feet and increasing the elevation of the dam crest from the existing 388 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 468 feet amsl. A new spillway would be included with the new dam to protect the reservoir from overtopping. As part of the new design, the engineered embankment dam would include a seepage control drainage system and a circulation/aeration system for the reservoir. The existing strainer and disinfection facilities would be demolished, reconstructed and expanded at the toe of the new dam to provide filtration, chlorination and de-chlorination. Additional project features include new onsite access and maintenance roads and wetland and riparian mitigation areas.

Environmental review of the potential impacts associated with the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements has been completed, and Addendum No. 3 to the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project's Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been prepared. The purpose of Addendum No. 3 is to describe and evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements that involve refinements and nuances to the project in comparison to the preliminary design that was analyzed in the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project FEIR. The FEIR determined that the project would not in any significant impacts. Addendum No. 3 describes and evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Irvine Ranch Water District

PROJECT APPLICANT: Irvine Ranch Water District **PHONE:** (949) 453-5300

PROJECT APPROVAL: This is to advise that on July 26, 2021, the Irvine Ranch Water District's Board of Directors, at its meeting, acting as the Lead Agency, made the following determinations regarding the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project:

(a) The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
(b) An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
(c) Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
(d) A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
(e) A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
(f) Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

On October 27, 2025, the Irvine Ranch Water District's Board of Directors, at its meeting, approved the Addendum No. 3 to the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project FEIR. Therefore, the following determinations are made in connection with the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project:

(a) The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
(b) An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
(c) Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
(d) A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
(e) A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
(f) Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Based upon the evidence submitted and as demonstrated by the analysis included in Addendum No. 3, none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent Environmental Impact Report have occurred; specifically:

(a) The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements do not represent a substantial change in the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project that would require major revisions to the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project FEIR because of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
(b) The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements do not represent a substantial change with respect to the circumstances under which the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project would be undertaken that require major revisions to the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project FEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; and
(c) The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements do not represent new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the FEIR was certified as complete, that shows any of the following:
    i. The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Design Refinements will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project FEIR;
    ii. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project FEIR;
    iii. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but IRWD declines to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
    iv. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably differently from those analyzed in the FEIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but IRWD declines to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

The Final EIR with comments and responses, Addendum No. 1, Addendum No. 2, Addendum No. 3, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618.

STAFF CONTACT PERSON: Fiona Nye, Director of Water Resources **PHONE:** 949-453-5325

Authorized Signature	Director of Water Resources Title	October 28, 2025 Date