

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Imperial

940 W. Main Street, Suite 202

El Centro, CA 92243

From: (Public Agency): Colorado River Basin RWQCB
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

(Address)

Project Title: Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resource (DWR)

Project Location - Specific:

Shoreline of Salton Sea, east of Bombay Beach (33.354901, -115.697146)

Project Location - City: Bombay Beach Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The RWQCB has issued a Notice of Applicability for this project for coverage under the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The project will restore wetlands and associated habitats on approximately 790 acres of exposed lakebed which are currently threatened by declining shallow groundwater levels due to the receding Salton Sea. The project involves restoration activities such as enhancement and re-establishment of shallow water habitat, vegetation enhancement, invasive species removal, and will provide new opportunities for public recreation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resource (DWR)

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: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Restoration Project, Section 21080.56, CDFW Concurrence 21080.56-2022-014-R6

Reasons why project is exempt:

In 2022, CDFW made a Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) determination for this project. CDFW's concurrence is required for Colorado River Basin RWQCB to approve the Project, relying on PRC Section 21080.56 of CEQA. This exemption is to confirm that the RWQCB concurs that the SERP filed by CDFW applies to this project. The project provides habitat and results in long term net benefits to biodiversity and includes ongoing management for the protection of the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Logan Raub Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 776-8966

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Logan Raub Date: 7/17/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____