

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From: Central Coast Water Authority
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427

Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Project Title: Emergency Chlorine Gas Scrubber System Acid Wash Project (“Project”)¹

Location – Specific: 5250 Antelope Road and Highway 46 East, Shandon California 93461

Location – County: Santa Barbara

Description of Activity:

The Central Coast Water Authority (“CCWA”) is responsible for delivering supplemental water supplies from the State Water Project (“SWP”) to communities in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. SWP water is conveyed to CCWA’s Water Treatment Plant (“WTP”) for treatment and delivery to CCWA Participants.

The primary chemical used for disinfection at the WTP is compressed liquid chlorine, which is converted to its gaseous form through an engineered distribution system that is used to dose chlorine into the water stream. A chlorine gas scrubber system is installed at the WTP to remove gaseous chlorine from the air in the event of a leak and is an essential part of CCWA’s risk management plan. An acid wash of the chlorine gas scrubber system must be performed every three to five years to ensure it operates as designed during a chlorine leak. An acid wash requires the chlorine gas scrubber system to be offline to remove and dispose of the existing sodium hydroxide solution, clean and inspect internal components, and refill with a new solution of sodium hydroxide and deionized water. The manufacturer of the system shall perform the maintenance of the proprietary chlorine scrubber unit.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Central Coast Water Authority

Exempt Status:


- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption (Class 1, Section 15301 - Existing Facility)
- Statutory Exemption (Not a Project Under CEQA)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

The proposed Project is categorically exempt under Section 15301–Existing Facilities of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines because the Project involves the operation, repair, or maintenance of existing public structures, facilities or mechanical equipment involving negligible or no

¹ Please note that the system undergoing maintenance is called an “Emergency Chlorine Gas Scrubber System” and the word “Emergency” here does not denote that the project is an emergency, as that term is generally understood.
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expansion of use. Here, the existing chlorine gas scrubber system will undergo routine cleaning that ensures the system continues to function as designed; said maintenance will consist of removing and disposing of existing solution, cleaning the machine to dissolve buildup, and replacing the solution. None of the exceptions to the use of this exemption apply.

Agency Contact Person: Ray Stokes
Signature: 
Ray Stokes
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Date: 8-1-24

Date received for filing OPR: _____