Print Form

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: Fresno
2220 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

From: (Public Agency): City of Fresno
Capital Projects Department
747 R Street, Fresno CA 93721
(Address)

Project Title: NESWTF Chemical Storage Building & Ozone Filter Gallery Repairs

Project Applicant: City of Fresno

Project Location - Specific:

57802004T - 10120 N. Chestnut Ave. Fresno, CA 93720

Project Location - City: Fresno Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project activities are to take place at an existent public utility site and include the removal and replacement of two existing sodium hypochlorite tanks and corresponding pedestals, removal and replacement of one existent chemical transfer pump pedestal, application of epoxy floor coating in the project area within the existing chemical storage building to enhance spillage safeguards and the application of epoxy grouting to facilitate the repair of existing concrete structures. The beneficiaries of this project include the residents of the City of Fresno, as these repairs will allow for continued operation and distribution of clean drinking water.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Fresno

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Fresno

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: Section 15301/Class 1 & Section 15300.2
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: ____________

Reasons why project is exempt:

The projects are located within the treatment facility building envelope themselves within the Ozone Filter Gallery and Chemical Storage Building. The Ozone Filter Gallery serves as a water pre-treatment area while the Chemical Storage Building is used for the storage of dosing chemicals. Non-structural surface cracking has been observed with the Ozone Gallery and such crack repairs require the use of epoxy grouting to seal against the ingress of water into the concrete retaining walls. These repairs are meant to restore the deteriorated cracking and will not alter the building envelope. The repairs in the Chemical Storage building do not provide any expansionary capacity to facilities but allow the facility to operate at the exact capacity it was designed to. The reasons for exemption are elaborated in the Categorical Exemption Environmental Assessment attached below.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Alan Simpson Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-621-8880

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: ____________ Date: 11/17/2025 Title: Licensed Profesional Engineer

▪ 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: ____________

CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

APPLICANT: Alan Simpson Jr., P.E., Licensed Professional Engineer
City of Fresno Capital Projects Department
747 R Street, 2nd Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT LOCATION: Northeast Water Surface Treatment Facility
10120 N. Chestnut Ave Fresno, CA 93720
(City of Fresno Council District 6)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project activities are to take place at an existent public utility site and include the removal and replacement of two existing sodium hypochlorite tanks and corresponding pedestals, removal and replacement of one existent chemical transfer pump pedestal, application of epoxy floor coating in the project area within the existing chemical storage building to enhance spillage safeguards and the application of epoxy grouting to facilitate the repair of existing concrete structures.

This project is exempt under Section 15301/Class1 of the State of California CEQA Guidelines. None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

EXPLANATION:

Class 1 exemptions, for projects pertaining to Existing Facilities, consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structure facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical feature, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Examples include but are not limited to: Existing facilities of publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services; existing highways and street, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety); restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damage structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public healthy and safety; and the Addition of Safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices.

Class 2 exemptions, for projects involving Replacement or Reconstruction, consist of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Examples include but are not limited to: Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of Capacity The proposed project is consistent with the Class 1 and Class 2 exemptions because it will implement repair and replacement procedures as well as slight improvements to existing water treatment facilities.

The projects are located within the treatment facility building envelope themselves within the Ozone Filter Gallery and Chemical Storage Building. The Ozone Filter Gallery serves as a water pre-treatment area while the Chemical Storage Building is used for the storage of dosing chemicals.

Non-structural surface cracking has been observed within the Ozone Gallery and such cracks require the use of epoxy grouting to seal against the ingress of water into concrete retaining walls.

Significant damage in the form of cracking and spalling has been observed to the tank pedestals located in the Chemical Storage building due to leaks of sodium hypochlorite solution from the tanks. The removal and replacement of the tank pedestals aims to provide better environmental safeguards and repair these areas of the facility so that no such leakage continues and so that the structural integrity of the pedestals will be brough back to a suitable condition. Sodium Hypochlorite solution is not an active chemical agent utilized during construction activities of this project; however the solution is used in water treatment processes with the City maintains permits for. The installation of storage tanks storing the hypochlorite solution liquid is part of the project as is the replacement of the concrete pedestals supporting those tanks. Again, no Sodium Hypochlorite is being used in the construction process. The tanks onsite have been vacated of the sodium hypochlorite solution as of two years ago and have undergone substantial rinsing to have them craned out of the building and offsite for environmentally compliant disposal. The tanks being installed are of the same holding capacity as the tanks being removed and the concrete pedestals being installed following the removal of the existing pedestals are dimensionally the same.

The improvements do not provide any expansionary capacity to facilities but allow the facility to operate at the exact capacity it was designed to. Existing tank pedestals and sodium hypochlorite tanks will simply be removed and replaced.

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, Exceptions, identifies the following exceptions to using a categorical exemption. Based on an examination of the project and supporting information, the project would not result in any impacts to the environment that would cause an exception to applying the Class 1, Existing Facilities, Categorical Exemption, to the project, as described below.

> *(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant.*

Exception (a) does not apply because the project falls within the Class 1, Existing Facilities, and Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction Exemptions.

> *(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

Exception (b) does not apply. This project involves the removal and replacement of two chemical storage tanks and the repair of concrete water retaining walls to ensure that there is no leakage or spillage. This is an unforeseen project that would not contribute to a cumulative impact. These types of repairs to water treatment facilities are common, involving repair and replacement infrastructure that normally is susceptible to degradation over time, and is not considered significant in the greater scope.

> *(c) Significant Effects. A categorical exemption shall not be used for any activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment*

Exception (c) does not apply. The project site involves the removal and replacement of old storage tanks, the replacement of sodium hypochlorite tanks with newer tanks demolition and replacement of existing pedestals and the application of epoxy to the chemical storage building floor for enhanced building and environmental protection. The entire project is located within the bounds of the existing treatment facility. The proposed work involves methods that are routinely used within the city, and the project site is not in an unusual location that would result in significant effect on the environment. Epoxies used in the project that have any contact with water are compliant with ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) Standard 61 – Drinking Water System Components; a standard for components having contact with potable water.

Date: November 17, 2025

Prepared by: Alan Simpson Jr., PE
Licensed Professional Engineer

Submitted by:

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Alan Simpson Jr., P.E.
Licensed Professional Engineer
City of Fresno
Capital Projects Department
(559) 621-8880