

COPY

## Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Marina Coast Water District  
920 2nd Ave Suite B, Marina, CA 93933

County Clerk

County of: Monterey  
168 West Alisal, 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

(Address)

FILED

JAN 06 2026

XOCHITL MARINA CAMACHO  
MONTEREY COUNTY CLERK  
7026-0001 DEPUTY

Project Title: D Booster Station Monitoring Wells Project

Project Applicant: Marina Coast Water District

Project Location - Specific:

APN 031-151-057-000 (City of Seaside)

Project Location - City: City of Seaside

Project Location - County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project involves the construction of two new groundwater monitoring wells at the MCWD D Booster Pump Station site, where MCWD holds an exclusive permit. Work will include site preparation, mobilization of drilling equipment, drilling, and installation of well casings and screened intervals at depths appropriate to site-specific hydrogeologic conditions. Each well will be completed for long-term groundwater level and water quality monitoring. Portable sound walls will be installed around drilling equipment to reduce noise transmission toward nearby residential areas and office buildings across the street. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve groundwater monitoring coverage within the MCWD service area in support of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements. Installation of the proposed monitoring wells will provide additional groundwater level and water quality data needed for basin evaluation, regulatory reporting, and long-term groundwater management within the Monterey Subbasin. The proposed project is needed to address identified groundwater monitoring data gaps and to support MCWD's responsibilities as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under SGMA. Accurate and reliable groundwater level and water quality data are required for informed basin management, compliance with SGMA reporting requirements, and evaluation of long-term groundwater sustainability. There are no long-term safety concerns associated with the proposed action. Temporary construction-related effects will be minimized through standard best management practices.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Marina Coast Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Marina Coast Water District

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: 15061(b)(3), 15301(b), 15303(d), 15304, and 15306
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Please refer to Attachment A.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Remleh Scherzinger

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-883-5925

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: 12/31/25

Title: GM

■ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTACHMENT A

The proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the common sense exemption set forth in Section 15061(b)(3), which applies where “there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.” The proposed project consists of two groundwater monitoring wells that would serve MCWD’s existing system and expand groundwater level and water quality monitoring in the area. The wells would not introduce new land uses, significantly expand capacity, or generate significant environmental effects. Since CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential to cause a significant environmental effect and given the limited scope of construction, the previously disturbed condition of the site, and the absence of reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts, the proposed project would not result in a significant environmental impact.

Section 15301(b) (Class 1) categorically exempts the minor alteration of existing public or private structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This includes public utility services, such as the two proposed groundwater monitoring wells. The proposed project consists of a minor alteration to an existing facility with a negligible expansion of use. Section 15303(d) (Class 3) categorically exempts the construction of new, small facilities or structures associated with utility infrastructure. The proposed project would involve the installation of two new groundwater monitoring wells that are limited in scale, accessory to existing MCWD groundwater infrastructure, and located on a permitted MCWD site. Section 15304 (Class 4) categorically exempts minor alterations to land, water, and vegetation, including minor drilling and subsurface activities that result in minimal surface disturbance. The proposed monitoring wells would involve minor grading and site preparation, as well as drilling and installation of well casings, with disturbed areas to be restored following construction. There are no long-term safety concerns associated with the proposed project. Additionally, Section 15306 (Class 6) categorically exempts data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed monitoring wells would provide groundwater level and water quality monitoring to meet SGMA requirements and address identified groundwater monitoring data gaps to support MCWD’s responsibilities as a GSA.

Lastly, none of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 would apply to the proposed project. Specifically, for Classes 3, 4, and 6, the project locations are not particularly sensitive and are located in previously disturbed areas. No other similar projects are proposed in the same place that, over time, would result in significant impacts. The proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The project is not located within a state scenic highway or a hazardous waste site, and the site does not contain any historical resources that would be impacted. Therefore, the project would be exempt under CEQA.