

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Coachella Valley Water District
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, California 92236

☒ County Clerk
County of Riverside
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502

☐ County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

☒ State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☐ County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

Project Title: Sun City Palm Desert Water Main Replacement Phase 2B Project

Project Location:

Sun City Palm Desert community located at 38180 Del Webb Boulevard, in Palm Desert, CA, within the County of Riverside.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) Sun City Palm Desert Water Main Replacement Phase 2B Project (Project) will replace approximately 23,000 Linear Feet (LF) of ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) in the Sun City Palm Desert community. The community's water system was constructed between 1992 and 2003 and has experienced numerous domestic water main leaks during the past decade, caused by the area's corrosive soils damaging existing DIP water mains. These leaks result in a lack of water service to customers during repairs, disruption to the community, unexpected expenses, and additional staff time to address the impacts resulting from the pipe failures. A pipeline corrosion evaluation, conducted in 2016, concluded that the existing DIP is subject to additional leaks and failure due to severe external corrosion, and all domestic water pipes in the Sun City Palm Desert community should be replaced with new pipes.

The Phase 2B project will replace approximately 23,000 LF affecting roughly 523 homes. The Project is anticipated to begin in or around January 2026 and last approximately 500 calendar days. Excavation of 4 feet will be necessary to install new DIP water lines within the community right-of-way. When the Project is completed, the old pipeline will be decommissioned and remain abandoned in place. Project construction will not disrupt service to the existing community water customers. The surrounding land uses consist of residential, open space, and roadways. The project is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The sites are not subject to the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee because they were previously developed.

Lead Agency Approving Project and Contact: Coachella Valley Water District; Jesse Aguilar, Engineer II / Phone: (760) 398-2651

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)
Coachella Valley Water District

Exempt Status:

- ☐ **Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- ☐ **Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- ☐ **Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- ☐ **Declared Emergency:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- ☐ **Emergency Project:** 15269(b)
- ☐ **Statutory Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines § 15277
- ☒ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines: § 15301, 15302

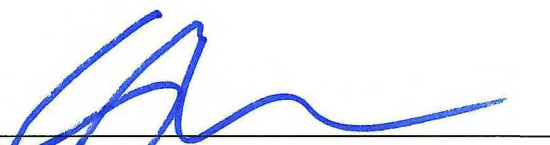
Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (b) (Existing Facilities) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This includes existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.

State CEQA Guidelines §15302 (c) (Replacement or Reconstruction) Class 2 consists 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, including replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Environmental Contact Person: Carlos Huerta, CVWD Environmental Resources Analyst, Phone (760) 398-2651

Date: January 13, 2026



Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

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

File No. 0426.0710