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: Orange

From: (Public Agency): Santa Margarita Water District
26111 Antonio Parkway
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
(Address)

Project Title: Middle Chiquita A and B Reservoir Mgnt System (RMS) and Safety Upgrades, C-1767A.01

Project Applicant: Santa Margarita Water District

Project Location - Specific:

28213 Esencia dr, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694

Project Location - City: Rancho Mission Viejo Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Construct various reservoir improvements that include safety improvements and paint touch-ups that will be performed with full containment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Margarita Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Margarita 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: 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project is located within the SMWD site property fence line and is covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tricia Butler Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-459-6554

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: Patricia Butler Date: 1/20/26 Title: Chief 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: _____

☐

ORANGE COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

30-04|22|2024-0343
Recorded in Official Records, Orange County
Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder
NO FEE
* $ R 0 0 1 4 9 0 5 2 5 8 $ *
202485000357 11:10 am 04/22/24
477 VitIndx Z01
0.00 50.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk-Recorder

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

MIDDLE CHIQUITA A AND B RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS) AND SAFETY UPGRADES, C-1767A.01

Check Document being Filed:

- ○ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ○ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- ◉ Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- ○ Other (Please fill in type):

FILED

APR 22 2024

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: C.H DEPUTY

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ON April 22, 2024

Posted for 30 **days**

DEPUTY CARINA HERRERA

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office.For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILED

APR 2 2 2024

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: C.H DEPUTY

TO:		FROM: (Public Agency)	Name:
☐	Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044		Santa Margarita Water District Address: 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Telephone: 949.459.6400
☒	Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (Include County name) Address: Orange		

1. Project Title:	Middle Chiquita A and B Reservoir Management System (RMS) and Safety Upgrades, C-1767A.01
2. Project Applicant:	Santa Margarita Water District
3. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	28213 Esencia Dr, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694 Cross Streets: Esencia Dr and Medano St
4. (a) Project Location – City: Rancho Mission Viejo	(b) Project Location – County: Orange
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	The Project's goal is to construct reservoir improvements that include new hatches for RMS mixers and chlorine dosing, and the addition of roof vents for reservoir filling and draining operations. Chlorine dosing will include electrical power and controls, and a new chemical storage facility. For safety improvements, the Project includes the addition of roof fall restraint systems. These improvements will require paint touchup, and the painting will be performed with full containment.
6. Name of Public Agency approving project:	Santa Margarita Water District
7. Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Santa Margarita Water District

8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) ☐ Ministerial project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) ☐ Not a project.	State CEQA Guidelines 15050(c)(2)-(3)
(c) ☐ Declared Emergency	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))
(d) ☐ Emergency Project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))
(e) ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	Covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.
(f) ☐ Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) ☐ Other. Explanation:	
9. Reason why project was exempt:	The proposed project is located with the SMWD site property fence line and is covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.

10. Lead Agency Contact Person: Telephone:	Patricia A. Butler 949.459.6554
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Certificate of Determination (Form "B") before filing.	
12. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, the date of the public hearing was:	

Patricia A. Butler
Signature

Date: 4/16/2024

Patricia A. Butler, P.E.
Name

Title: Chief Engineer

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

FILED
APR 22 2024
ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT
BY: C.H DEPUTY

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

CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION

(If Notice of Exemption filed by Project Applicant, Project Applicant must Attach to Notice of Exemption)

1.	Name or description of project:	Middle Chiquita A and B Reservoir Management System (RMS) and Safety Upgrades, C-1767A.01	
2.	Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	28213 Esencia Dr, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694 Cross Streets: Esencia Dr and Medano St	
3.	Entity or person undertaking project: Santa Margarita Water District 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688	A. Santa Margarita Water District	
		B. Other (Private)	
		(1) Name	
		(2) Address	

4. Staff Determination:

The Lead Agency's Staff, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Lead Agency's Local Guidelines for Implementing CEQA has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

a. ☐	The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.	
b. ☐	The project is a Ministerial Project.	
c. ☐	The project is an Emergency Project.	
d. ☐	The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.	
e. ☒	The project is categorically exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption Class:	Covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.
f. ☐	The project is statutorily exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption:	
g. ☐	The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:	
h. ☐	The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.	
	Name of Lead Agency:	

Date: 4/16/2024

Staff: Patricia A. Butler

Patricia A. Butler P.E., Chief Engineer

FILED

APR 22 2024

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: C.H DEPUTY

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print | StartOver | Save

RECEIPT NUMBER: 30 — 04/22/2024 — 0343

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		04/22/2024

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Orange	202485000357

PROJECT TITLE

MIDDLE CHIQUITA A AND B RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS) AND SAFETY UPGRADES, C-1767A.01

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		(949)459-6400

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY	RCHO SANTA MARGA	CA	92688

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☑ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,051.25	$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$2,916.75	$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,377.25	$	0.00

☑ Exempt from fee

- ☑ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850.00	$	0.00
☐ County documentary handling fee		$	
☐ Other		$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ 0.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	CARINA HERRERA, DEPUTY

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK-RECORDER

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
MARRIAGE LICENSES/RECORDS
NOTARY REGISTRATION
ORANGE COUNTY ARCHIVES
PASSPORTS
PROPERTY RECORDS

SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT
26111 ANTONIO PKWY
RCHO SA MARGARITA, CA 92688

Office of the Orange County Clerk-Recorder
Memorandum

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The attached notice was received, filed and a copy was posted on 04/22/2024

It remained posted for 30 (thirty) days.

Hugh Nguyen
Clerk - Recorder
In and for the County of Orange

By: Carina Herrera Deputy

Public Resource Code 21092.3

The notice required pursuant to Sections 21080.4 and 21092 for an environmental impact report shall be posted in the office of the County Clerk of each county *** in which the project will be located and shall remain posted for a period of 30 days. The notice required pursuant to Section 21092 for a negative declaration shall be so posted for a period of 20 days, unless otherwise required by law to be posted for 30 days. The County Clerk shall post notices within 24 hours of receipt.

Public Resource Code 21152

All notices filed pursuant to this section shall be available for public inspection, and shall be posted *** **within 24 hours of receipt** in the office of the County Clerk. Each notice shall remain posted for a period of 30 days. *** Thereafter, the clerk shall return the notice to the local **lead** agency *** within a notation of the period it was posted. The local **lead** agency shall retain the notice for not less than nine months.

Additions or changes by underline; deletions by ***