

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: Plano A and B Reservoir Management System (RMS) and Safety Upgrades, C-1223E

Project Applicant: Santa Margarita Water District

Project Location - Specific:

31851 Trabuco Canyon Road, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Project Location - City: Rancho Santa Margarita Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Construct various reservoir improvements that include safety improvements and paint touch-up 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

30-04122|2024-0345

Recorded in Official Records, Orange County

Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder



NO FEE

202485000359 11:24 am 04/22/24

477 VitIndex Z01

0.00 50.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

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

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

PLANO A AND B RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS) AND SAFETY
UPGRADES, C-1223E

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILED

APR 22 2024

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: C.H DEPUTY

TO: ☐ Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	FROM: Name: (Public Agency) 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:	Plano A and B Reservoir Management System (RMS) and Safety Upgrades, C-1223E
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):	31851 Trabuco Canyon Road, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Cross Streets: Trabuco Canyon Rd and Alta Vista Ranch Rd
4. (a) Project Location – City: Rancho Santa Margarita	(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 replacement of roof access hatches for operator access, new hatches for RMS mixers and chlorine dosing, and the addition/replacement 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 replacement of ladders, and 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,	Santa Margarita Water District

permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	
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:	Plano A and B Reservoir Management System (RMS) and Safety Upgrades, C-1223E		
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):	31851 Trabuco Canyon Road, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Cross Streets: Trabuco Canyon Rd and Alta Vista Ranch Rd		
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



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 — 0345

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY

SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

DATE

04/22/2024

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

Orange

DOCUMENT NUMBER

202485000359

PROJECT TITLE

PLANO A AND B RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS) AND SAFETY UPGRADES, C-1223E

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

(949) 459-6400

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

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

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

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 ***