

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: Don Juan/El Horno Street Pressure Reducing Station Replacement, C-9421B.1

Project Applicant: Santa Margarita Water District

Project Location - Specific:

Northwest corner of El Horno St. near San Juan Medical Ctr. 31001 Rancho Viejo Rd.

Project Location - City: San Juan Capistrano

Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Replacement of corroded domestic water pressure reducing station piping and valves in existing below ground vault to all new above ground equipment. Install of above ground system will facilitate improved access for operation and maintenance. Security will be provided by chain link fence with colored slats for visual screening

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 Class 1, 15302 Class 2
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Class 1 - Existing Facilities and Class 2 - Replacement or Reconstruction

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? x Yes No

Signature: Tricia Butler

Date: 12/17/25

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

202585000204

FILED

March 18, 2025

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

By *H. Nguyen*
Deputy clerk

30-03/18/2025-0154

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

DON JUAN/EL HORNO STREET PRESSURE REDUCING STATION REPLACEMENT C-9421B.1

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 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ORANGE
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ON 03/18/2025**
Posted 03/18/2025 Removed _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY 428

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

TO: ☐ Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	FROM: Name: Santa Margarita Water District (Public Agency) Address: 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Telephone: 949-459-6400
☒ Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (County of Orange) Address: 601 N Ross Street, Santa Ana CA 92701	County of Orange Clerk-Recorder Office

1. Project Title:	Don Juan/El Horno Street Pressure Reducing Station Replacement C-9421B.1
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):	Station is located on the northwest corner of the El Horno Street underpass and in proximity to the southern corner of the parking for the San Juan Medical Center, 31001 Rancho Viejo Road.
4. (a) Project Location – City:	San Juan Capistrano – County: Orange.
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	Replacement of corroded domestic water (DW) pressure reducing station (PRS) piping and valves in an existing below ground vault to all new above ground equipment. Installation of above ground system will facilitate improved access for operation and maintenance. Security will be provided by a chain link fence enclosure with colored slats for visual screening.
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 (District) FILED MAR 18 2025 HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER BY: <u>MG</u> DEPUTY
8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) ☐ Ministerial project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) ☐ Not a project.	
(c) ☐ Emergency Project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b), (c))
(d) ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	CEQA 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities and 15302 Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction.
(e) ☐ Declared Emergency.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))

(f) ☐ Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) ☐ Other. Explanation:	
9. Reason why project was exempt:	The work is replacement of an existing facility.

10. Lead Agency Contact Person: Telephone:	Michael Marquis, P.E. 949-459-6615
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Preliminary Exemption Assessment (Form "A") before filing.	
12. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes ☐ No ☒	
13. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, the date of the public hearing was: Click to enter date	

Patricia Butler
Signature

Date: February 26, 2025

Patricia Butler
Name

Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

FILED

MAR 18 2025

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

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: MG DEPUTY

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:	Don Juan/El Horno Street Pressure Reducing Station Replacement		
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):	Station is located on the northwest corner of the El Horno Street underpass and in proximity to the southern corner of the parking for the San Juan Medical Center, 31001 Rancho Viejo Road		
3. Entity or person undertaking project:	A. Santa Margarita Water District		
	B. Other (Private) N/A		
	A. (1) Name	Santa Margarita Water District	
	A. (2) Address	26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688	
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:	CEQA 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities and 15302, Class 2 Replacement or Reconstruction	
f. ☐	The project is statutorily exempt.		
	Applicable Exemption:	N/A	
g. ☐	The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:		
	N/A		
h. ☐	The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.		
	Name of Lead Agency:	Santa Margarita Water District	

Date: February 26, 2025

Patricia Butler
Name

Patricia Butler
Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

FILED

MAR 18 2025

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: MG DEPUTY



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

StartOver

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

30-03/18/2025-0154

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/18/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING ORANGE COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 202585000204	
PROJECT TITLE		

DON JUAN/EL HORNO STREET PRESSURE REDUCING STATION REPLACEMENT C-9421B.1

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (949) 459-6615
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY	CITY STATE RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA CA	ZIP CODE 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) \$ 4,123.50 \$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,968.75 \$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,401.75 \$ _____

☒ 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 \$ _____
☐ County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ _____
☐ Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE X <i>Melissa Gomez</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Melissa Gomez Deputy Clerk
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HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

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

March 18, 2025

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

Office of the ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
Memorandum

SUBJECT: EIR NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The attached notice was received, filed and a copy was posted on 3/18/2025

It remained posted for 30 (thirty) days.

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER
In and for the County of ORANGE

By: 428 - 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 ***

NORTH COUNTY BRANCH OFFICE
WELLS FARGO BUILDING
222 S. HARBOR BLVD., STE 110
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA 92805

ORANGE COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIONSOUTH
601 N. ROSS STREET
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

OLD ORANGE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
211 W. SANTA ANA BLVD., ROOM 201
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

SOUTH COUNTY BRANCH OFFICE
LAGUNA HILLS CIVIC CENTER
24031 EL TORO ROAD, SUITE 150
LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA 92653



ORANGE COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

202585000204

FILED

March 18, 2025

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

By *H. Nguyen*
Deputy clerk

30-03/18/2025-0154

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DEPUTY 428

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Patricia Butler
Signature

Date: February 26, 2025

Patricia Butler
Name

Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

FILED

MAR 18 2025

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

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: MG DEPUTY

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

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Date: February 26, 2025

Patricia Butler
Name

Patricia Butler
Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

FILED

MAR 18 2025

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: MG DEPUTY



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

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RECEIPT NUMBER:

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		03/18/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
ORANGE COUNTY	202585000204	
PROJECT TITLE		

DON JUAN/EL HORNO STREET PRESSURE REDUCING STATION REPLACEMENT C-9421B.1

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		(949) 459-6615
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY STATE	ZIP CODE
26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY	RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA 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) \$ 4,123.50 \$ _____
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☒ Exempt from fee

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☐ County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ _____
☐ Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	Melissa Gomez Deputy Clerk



HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
MARRIAGE LICENSES/RECORDS
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March 18, 2025

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SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

SOUTH COUNTY BRANCH OFFICE
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24031 EL TORO ROAD, SUITE 150
LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA 92653