

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: Cerro Rebal 513 Zone Pressure Reducing Station Replacement w/Chain Link Fence and Top Enclosure, C-9854A

Project Applicant: Santa Margarita Water District

Project Location - Specific:

East side of Via Cerro Rebal, in proximity of 27599 Via Montoya

Project Location - City: San Juan Capistrano Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Emergency replacement of corroded domestic water pressure reducing station piping, valves in an existing below ground vault to all new above ground equipment. Existing PRS vault is beneath a landscaped area. Installation of above ground system will facilitate improved access for operation and maintenance. Security is a chain link fence enclosure 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: CEQA 15301 Class 1 & CEQA 15302 Class 2
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Replacement or Reconstruction of existing facility

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: Patricia 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

30-06/23/2025-0460

202585000597

FILED

June 23, 2025

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

By [Signature]
Deputy clerk

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

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

CERRO REBAL 513 ZONE PRESSURE REDUCING STATION REPLACEMENT WITH CHAIN LINK FENCE AND TOP ENCLOSURE C-9854A

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 06/23/2025**
Posted 06/23/2025 Removed _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY 483

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.

FILED

JUN 23 2025

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: VD

DEPUTY

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:	Cerro Rebal 513 Zone Pressure Reducing Station Replacement with chain link fence and top enclosure C-9854A
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 East side of Via Cerro Rebal, across from the intersection with Via Montoya north loop and in proximity of 27599 Via Montoya.
4. (a) Project Location – City:	San Juan Capistrano – County: Orange.
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	Emergency 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. The existing PRS vault is beneath a landscaped area. Installation of above ground system will facilitate improved access for operation and maintenance. Security provided by 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)
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:	Michael Marquis, P.E.
Telephone:	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: October 14, 2024

Patricia Butler
Name

Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

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

FILED

JUN 23 2025

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: 1KD 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:	Cerro Rebal 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):	On the East side of Via Cerro Rebal across from the intersection with Via Montoya North Loop and in proximity of 27599 Via Montoya.		
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	

Patricia Butler

Date: April 15, 2022

Patricia Butler
Name

Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

FILED

JUN 23 2025

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:  FORM B 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	Signature	Save
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RECEIPT NUMBER:

30-06/23/2025-0460

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 06/23/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING ORANGE COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 202585000597	
PROJECT TITLE CERRO REBAL 513 ZONE PRESSURE REDUCING STATION REPLACEMENT WITH CHAIN LINK FENCE AND TOP ENCLOSURE C-9854A		

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (949) 459-6400
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY	CITY RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA CA	STATE 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 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Kalci Do Deputy Clerk
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ORANGE COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

30-06123/2025-0460

202585000597

FILED

June 23, 2025

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

By [Signature]
Deputy clerk

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2. Project Applicant:	Santa Margarita Water District
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Signature

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Patricia Butler
Name

Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

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Patricia Butler

Date: April 15, 2022

Patricia Butler
Name

Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

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HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:  DEPUTY
FORM B



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2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print	Signature	Save
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☐ Other \$ _____

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SIGNATURE X 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Kalci Do Deputy Clerk
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