

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Mesa Water District
1965 Placentia Ave
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

County Clerk
County of: Orange
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

(Address)

Project Title: Newport Beach Interagency Water Transfer

Project Applicant: Mesa Water District

Project Location - Specific:

W 17th St and Whittier Ave

Project Location - City: Costa Mesa Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Construction of a new water system interconnection and associated appurtenances to facilitate interagency water transfer between Mesa Water District and the City of Newport Beach. The project includes installation of a below-grade utility vault, piping, and related infrastructure within an existing, fully developed urban roadway corridor. The purpose of the project is to improve regional water supply reliability and operational flexibility.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Mesa Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mesa 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: Class 3; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15303
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project consists of construction of a small utility structure and associated water system interconnection facilities within an existing, fully developed urban area. The project site is not located within the Coastal Zone. No expansion of use beyond existing utility operations would occur, and none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Nadia Boutros Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-207-5451

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: [Signature] Date: 02/05/2026 Title: District Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.