

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Coachella Valley Water District
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, California 92236

County Clerk
County of Riverside
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502

County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

Project Title: Lift Station 80-03 Upgrade Project

Project Location: Along Cook Street in Palm Desert, California south of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) Lift Station 80-03 project (Project) will consist of improvements to the existing Lift Station 80-03 site. The existing lift station layout is set up as a dry well/wet well. Most of the piping and valves within the dry well were installed when the lift station was built in 1974 while more recent electrical upgrades completed in 2004. To improve operational reliability all inlet and discharge piping, pumps, valves, electrical equipment, and VFDs will be replaced.

New upgrades for the Lift Station will be as follows:

- A new wet well (16-foot diameter by 45.2-feet in depth) will be installed. The current dry and wet wells will be retrofitted/reinforced and used as emergency storage facilities.
- The addition of a fourth pumping unit provides an ultimate pumping capacity of 10,400 gallons per minute (gpm) with 3 duty and 1 standby pumping units. The Project will increase overall storage capacity; however, it will decrease overall pumping capacity (original pumping capacity was over engineered and more than needed). Current pumping capacity is 12,000+ gmp. New pumping capacity is 10,400 gpm (8,400 gpm with pumps and 2,000 gpm with backup diesel generator)
- The removal and replacement of an emergency diesel generator. The new replacement 2,000 gpm emergency diesel generator will provide an ultimate pumping capacity of 10,400 gpm.
- The existing driveway and arm-gate will be redesigned to accommodate for future CV Link projects and address vehicle view-of-sight safety factors. The current driveway and arm-gate locations make it difficult for CVWD personnel to safely exit Cook St.
- Remove all existing woodchip odor control components, including wood chip containment area (3,550 sq ft), piping, fans, and support facilities, and replace with a new Packaged Odor Control System consisting of a two (2) stage biological/ carbon all-in-one system.

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- Install a new concrete pad(s) to house the new odor control biomedica/carbon unit(s), sized for 850 cfm.
- Replace the electrical building with a new updated Battery Cell Management Unit (CMU) Electrical Building.

The Project will also include site improvements to upgraded site piping, paved access driveways, perimeter fencing, and lighting. Excavation of 26 feet will be needed to install new 24-inch gravity sewer lines on the property. The upgrades to the existing Lift Station 80-03 facility are anticipated to begin in or around April 2026 and last approximately 455 calendar days. The surrounding land uses consist of residential, open space, and roadways. The existing lift station will continue to convey wastewater while the upgrades are under construction, causing no disruptions in services. The Project is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The sites are not subject to the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee because they are previously developed.

Lead Agency Approving Project and Contact: Coachella Valley Water District; Diego Colorado, Engineer II / Phone: (760) 398-2651

Exempt Status:

- Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- Declared Emergency:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- Emergency Project:** 15269(b)
- Statutory Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines § 15277
- Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines: §15301, §15303

Reasons why project is exempt:

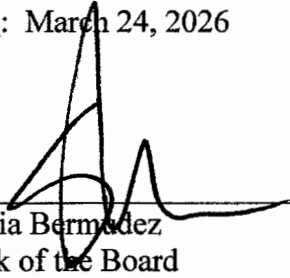
State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (b) (Existing Facilities) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This includes existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.

State CEQA Guidelines §15303 (d) (New Construction). This Class 3 exemption allows for the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. This includes water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

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Environmental Contact Person: Carlos Huerta, CVWD Environmental Resources Analyst, Phone
(760) 398-2651

Date: March 24, 2026



Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

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

File No. 0710.50.17