

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of Orange

From: Caltrans District 12
1750 E. Fourth St. Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Project Title: Encroachment Permit 12-26-6-US-1002

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: SR-1 PM 1.060

Project Location - City: Dana Point Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

South Coast Water District (SCWD) is proceeding with the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project within the City of Dana Point, County of Orange. The purpose of the project for SCWD is to treat seawater sourced by subsurface intake slant wells on Doheny State Beach at the Doheny Ocean Desalination Plant to improve SCWDs regional water-supply reliability. The project requires a raw water pipeline which will be microtunnelled across the San Juan Creek and encroach on Caltrans Right-of-Way (ROW), across State Route 1 (SR-1) or Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). Project activities include microtunneling a 60 inch steel casing approximately 35 feet below ground for about 240 feet within Caltrans ROW to install a 20 inch raw water pipeline and a 20 inch pump to waste pipeline that will convey ocean water across San Juan Creek to the proposed desalination facility. This project is financed with local funds, and the work that will occur within the Caltrans ROW is less than 1 acre.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: SCWD

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: 15303 Class 3(d)

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project is exempt under 15303 Class 3(d).


Lead Agency Contact Person: Smita Deshpande

Phone number: (949) 279-8704

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:  Date: 4/15/26 Title: Environmental Branch Chief

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.