

# 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): South Coast Water District  
31592 West Street  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

(Address)

Project Title: Pump Station 6 Improvements Project

Project Applicant: South Coast Water District

Project Location - Specific:

See Figure 1, attached

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: South Coast Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: South Coast 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 Guidelines Section 15301(b), Existing Facilities (Class 1)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attached.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Dylan LaFrance, PE, JD Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (949) 395-4764

**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: Dylan LaFrance Date: 5/11/26 Title: Senior 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: \_\_\_\_\_

May 8, 2026

## Attachment to Notice of Exemption: Pump Station 6 Improvements Project in Dana Point, California

# 1 Project Description

The South Coast Water District (SCWD) proposes to perform piping and electrical improvements at an existing pump station facility, Pump Station 6, in the City of Dana Point. The project site is located approximately 0.3 miles northwest of the intersection of Stonehill Drive and Monarch Beach Drive, as shown in Figure 1 (Project Location).

The project consists of upgrades, replacement, and rehabilitation of existing mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation components within the existing pump station building, with minor ancillary site work occurring in adjacent paved areas. As shown in Figure 2 (Pump Station 6 Improvements Plan), improvements include removal and replacement of existing piping and equipment, minor trenching for drain line modifications, and pavement restoration. The project would not expand the existing pump station footprint, increase operational capacity, or extend utility service beyond existing conditions.

All work would occur within previously disturbed and developed areas of the existing pump station facility. Minor excavation would be limited to paved surfaces (e.g., asphalt and concrete) and would occur within the existing facility footprint or immediately adjacent disturbed areas. Construction activities would be temporary and short-term in nature and would be confined to developed areas of the site. All disturbed surfaces would be restored to pre-project conditions in accordance with SCWD standards.

# 2 Categorical Exemption

The proposed project is categorically exempt under the “Class 1” categorical exemption (CE), Existing Facilities, as outlined in Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. “Class 1” exemptions consist of 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. The key consideration is whether the project involves an expansion of use. One of the examples included under Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines is as follows: “Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.” The proposed project involves the repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of existing publicly owned water utility infrastructure within an existing pump station facility and associated paved areas. As demonstrated in Figure 2, all improvements are confined to the existing developed facility and do not result in expansion of the facility footprint or service area. The project would result in negligible or no expansion of existing use.

### 3 Exceptions to the Use of Categorical Exemptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines provides several exceptions that would otherwise preclude the use of a CE:

- All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
- A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
- A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The following discussion describes why each of the exceptions to the use of a CE are not applicable to the proposed project. Because none of the exceptions precluding the use of a CE is applicable to the proposed project, the “Class 1” CE is appropriate.

#### Cumulative Impact

CEs, as defined in Section 15300 of the CEQA Guidelines, are projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. As such, the proposed project would not considerably contribute to cumulative impacts in the greater project region. In addition, other projects in the region would presumably be bound by their applicable lead agency to (1) comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements; and (2) incorporate all feasible mitigation measures, consistent with CEQA, to further ensure that their potentially cumulative impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

#### Unusual Circumstances

The proposed project involves minor alterations to an existing utility facility located in a fully developed, urban environment. It would not require the removal of any trees or other natural features or habitats. The proposed project is consistent with the type of period alteration inherent in effectively operating a public utility. No unusual circumstances have been identified related to the project site or the scope of the project.

#### Scenic Resources within a State Scenic Highway

The project site is not located within a designated state scenic highway. While State Route 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) is located in the general vicinity, the segment near the project site is not designated as a state scenic highway (Caltrans 2026). Additionally, the project site is located within an existing developed facility and would not be visible from designated or eligible scenic highway segments. Therefore, the project would not impact scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

## Section 65962.5 of the Government Code

Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, also known as the Cortese List, is a compilation of various lists compiled by several state agencies identifying facilities or sites that are impacted by environmental contamination or hazardous waste. The proposed project site is not on any list compiled pursuant to the requirements of Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2026; SWRCB 2026)

## Historical Resources

The proposed project does not involve the demolition or alteration of any structures that could be considered historical resources. All work would occur within previously disturbed areas of an existing facility and would not impact subsurface archaeological resources. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

## 4 References

Caltrans (California Department of Transportation). 2026. "California State Scenic Highway System Map." Accessed May 2026.

<https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>.

DTSC (California Department of Toxic Substances Control). 2026. EnviroStor Hazardous Waste and Cleanup Sites Database. Accessed May 2026.

<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Danapoint>.

SWRCB (State Water Resources Control Board). 2026. GeoTracker Cleanup, Leak, and Underground Storage Tank Database. Accessed May 2026.

<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=Danapoint>.



SOURCE: South Coast Water District, 2026

**FIGURE 1**  
Project Location

**CONSTRUCTION NOTES:**

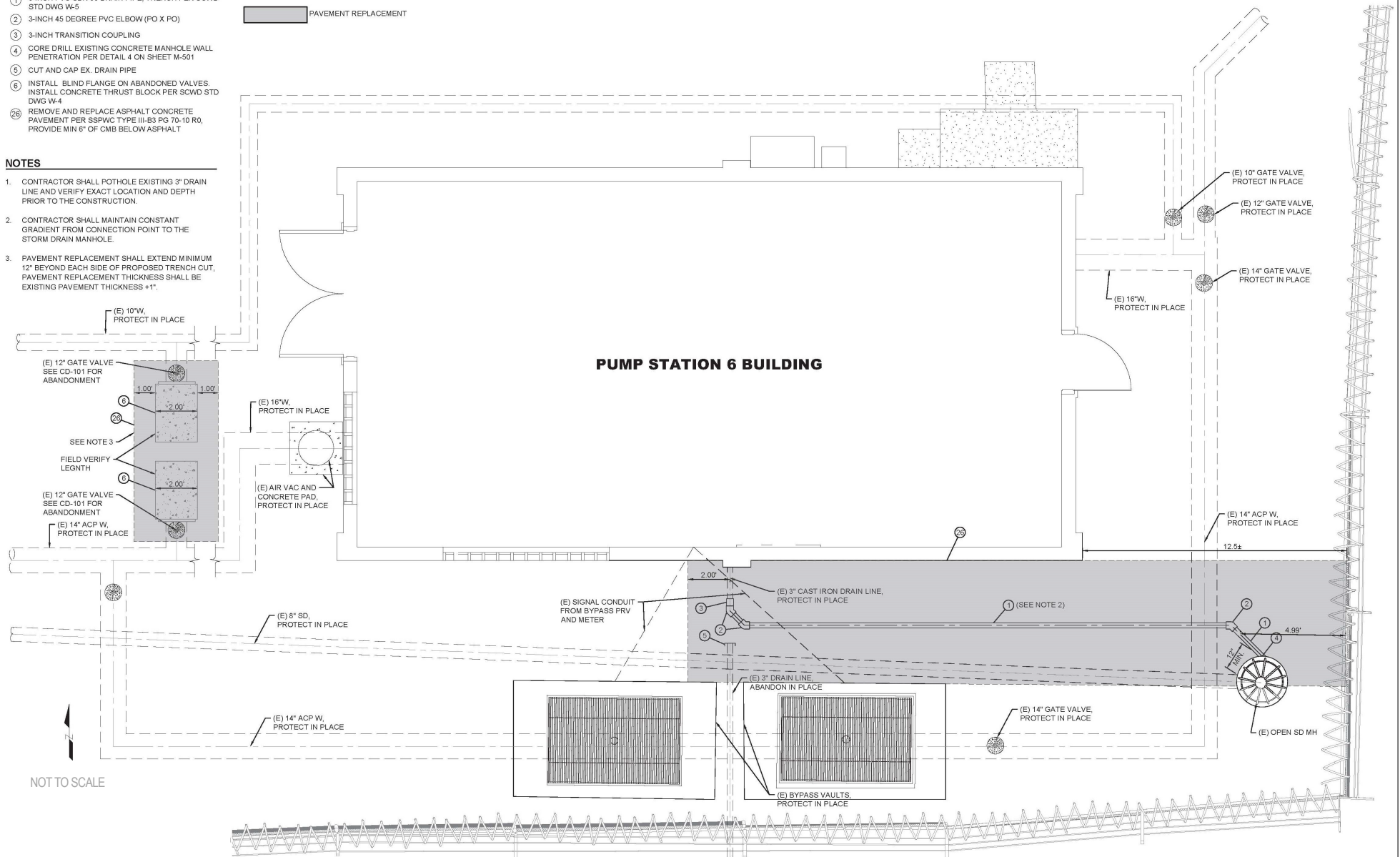
- ① 3-INCH PVC SDR 35 DRAIN PIPE, TRENCH PER SCWD STD DWG W-5
- ② 3-INCH 45 DEGREE PVC ELBOW (PO X PO)
- ③ 3-INCH TRANSITION COUPLING
- ④ CORE DRILL EXISTING CONCRETE MANHOLE WALL PENETRATION PER DETAIL 4 ON SHEET M-501
- ⑤ CUT AND CAP EX. DRAIN PIPE
- ⑥ INSTALL BLIND FLANGE ON ABANDONED VALVES. INSTALL CONCRETE THRUST BLOCK PER SCWD STD DWG W-4
- ⑥ REMOVE AND REPLACE ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVEMENT PER SSPVC TYPE III-B3 PG 70-10 R0, PROVIDE MIN 6" OF GMB BELOW ASPHALT

**LEGEND**

■ PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT

**NOTES**

- 1. CONTRACTOR SHALL POT HOLE EXISTING 3" DRAIN LINE AND VERIFY EXACT LOCATION AND DEPTH PRIOR TO THE CONSTRUCTION.
- 2. CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN CONSTANT GRADIENT FROM CONNECTION POINT TO THE STORM DRAIN MANHOLE.
- 3. PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT SHALL EXTEND MINIMUM 12' BEYOND EACH SIDE OF PROPOSED TRENCH CUT, PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT THICKNESS SHALL BE EXISTING PAVEMENT THICKNESS +1'.



SOURCE: South Coast Water District, 2026