

## Notice of Exemption

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

From: Central Coast Water Authority  
255 Industrial Way  
Buellton, CA 93427

County Clerk of the Board  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Room 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

County Clerk-Recorder  
County of San Luis Obispo  
1055 Monterey Street, Room D120  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**Project Title:** Filter Multimedia and Underdrain Nozzle Replacement Project

**Project Location:** 5250 Antelope Road, Shandon, CA 93461.

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) is a joint powers agency formed to construct, own, and operate certain facilities needed to treat, convey, and deliver State Water Project (SWP) water to its project participants—retail water providers and end users located within the County.

The Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is one of CCWA's facilities and stores treatment chemicals in chemical tanks. The condition of the multimedia filters at the WTP is a high priority due to their critical role in the treatment process and regulatory compliance. Proper filter performance is essential to prevent clogging, excessive head loss, and inefficient backwash cycles, all of which can adversely affect WTP operations. Filtration of settled water is a core component of overall treatment capacity and is achieved through eight multimedia filters within the system. Water percolates from the top of each filter through a layer of granular activated carbon and sand and flows through an underdrain system to the chlorine contact basin. CCWA intends to remove and replace both layers of filter media and the underdrain nozzles in four of the filters, repairing filter basin concrete surfaces, and leveling backwash troughs to extent feasible.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:** CCWA

**Name of Persons or Agencies Carrying Out Project:** CCWA

**Exempt Status:** Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Sections 15000 – 15387 (CEQA Guidelines), Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption); Categorical Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Public Facilities); and Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction).

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

**Class 1 - Existing Public Facilities Categorical Exemption:** The Project consists of operation, repair, and maintenance of existing facilities that involves negligible or no expansion of existing

or former use. Therefore the Existing Public Facilities Categorical Exemption applies. (CEQA Guidelines § 15301.)

**Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction Categorical Exemption:** The Project consists of the removal and replacement of both layers of filter media and the underdrain nozzles in four of the filters, where the WTP will be located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity. Therefore, the Replacement or Reconstruction Categorical Exemption applies. (CEQA Guidelines § 15302.)

**Exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions:**

None of the exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions apply, as the Project will not: impact a designated, mapped, and officially adopted environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern; result in a significant cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place over time; have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; damage a scenic highway or scenic resources within a state scenic highway; be located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; nor cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. (CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2.)

**Common Sense Exemption:**

This Project is also determined to be exempt based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).) A public agency may determine an activity to be exempt where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

Here, there will be no expansion of existing uses, and the WTP will operate in the same manner and at the same capacity as the existing WTP. As such, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

**Agency Contact:** Peter Thompson, CCWA

**Area Code/Telephone:** 805-688-2292

Signature:   
Title: CCWA, Executive Director

Date: 5-26-26

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_