

Notice of Exemption

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., 4th 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: Aqueous Ammonia Storage Tank Lining 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 aqueous ammonia storage tank at the WTP has experienced delamination from the interior tank walls and degradation at the outlets and flanges. CCWA intends to replace the vulcanized rubber lining in the aqueous ammonia storage tank.

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 replacement of the vulcanized rubber lining in the aqueous ammonia storage tank, 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: _____