

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-43

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ACTING AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE WESTERN HEIGHTS AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PILOT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Yucaipa Valley Water District (the "District") is a public agency of the State of California organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of the County Water District Law of this State (Section 30000, et seq. of the Water Code); and

WHEREAS, the District is responsible for the maintenance of water, wastewater and recycled facilities within the District's service area; and

WHEREAS, the District supports water sustainability through a diverse water supply portfolio which includes aquifer storage and recovery in the groundwater basins within the District's service area boundary and supports the Western Heights Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Yucaipa Valley Water District hereby RESOLVE, DETERMINE, and ORDER as follows:

1. The Board of Directors hereby finds that approval of the Western Heights Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines, California. Article 5, 15062 Notice of Exemption
2. The Western Heights Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project classify as a Categorical Exemption - Class 6, Section 15306; Class 3(d), Section 15303.
3. The Board of Directors hereby directs District staff to file a Notice of Exemption for the project within five working days of approval of the Western Heights Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project
4. The Board of Directors hereby approves the Western Heights Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project and directs the General Manager to file the Notice of Exemption with the County of San Bernardino and the Office of Planning and Research.

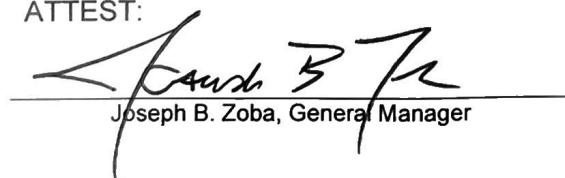
PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 16th day of June 2026.

YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



Jay Bogh, President Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Joseph B. Zoba, General Manager

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: San Bernardino

222 West Hospitality Lane

San Bernardino, CA 92415

From: (Public Agency): Yucaipa Valley Water District

12770 Second Street

Yucaipa, CA 92399

(Address)

Project Title: Western Heights Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Pilot Project

Project Applicant: Western Heights Water Company (WHWC)

Project Location - Specific:

There are two locations: North of Ave E (APN 030109118) and south of Ave D (APN 031802145) in Yucaipa, California.

Project Location - City: Yucaipa

Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project is the pilot phase of the Western Heights ASR program and involves the modification of two existing groundwater wells to serve as injection sites. During this initial 24-month pilot period, WHWC will inject up to 700 AFY of treated potable water—sourced from Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD)—into the aquifer. Pilot testing conducted during this period will be used to determine the optimal flow rates and annual volumes for the full-scale project. The stored water will eventually be extracted by existing production wells to ensure a resilient water supply during droughts or infrastructure emergencies and will be available for both WHWC and YVWD.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Yucaipa Valley Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Western Heights Water Company

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: Class 6, Section 15306; Class 3(d), Section 15303
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Under SWRCB Water Quality Order 2012-0010, pilot projects may be exempt under Section 15306 (Class 6) if they focus on research and resource evaluation without causing a serious disturbance to environmental resources. Also applicable is Section 15303 (Class 3d) - new construction or conversion of small structures, since the existing wells only require minor alterations.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: JENNIFER AYES

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (909) 790-3301

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: [Signature] Date: 6-17-2026 Title: GENERAL MANAGER

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: _____