

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Coachella Valley Water District
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, California 92236

☒ County Clerk
County of Riverside
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502

☐ County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

☒ State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☐ County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

Project Title: Coachella Valley Water District Power Purchase Agreement Proposal

Project Location: Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) Steve Robbins Administration Building located at 75-515 Hovley Lane East, in Palm Desert, California; and CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 located at 43-000 Cook Street in Palm Desert, California

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) will enter into contract with Nobell Energy Solution, Inc. (Nobell) for a solar power purchase agreement; and a site lease agreement. This agreement will be for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a solar project located at CVWD's Steve Robbins Administration Building (SRAB) parking lot located at 75-515 Hovley Lane East, in Palm Desert, California; and at CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 (WRP 10) located at 43-000 Cook Street in Palm Desert, California.

The primary purpose of the project is to produce renewable energy for on-site use while also providing shaded parking/carports for CVWD employees. The project proposes to design, install, operate, and maintain a solar photovoltaic (PV) energy system on various carports/shade structures to be built on CVWD's SRAB parking lot and WRP 10 facilities. Nobell also plans to install a battery energy storage system to support demand peak shaving; thereby reducing energy costs from Southern California Edison by generating renewable energy and shifting energy use from peak to lower-rate periods through the use of battery storage. Finally, Nobell will install Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations to be utilized by CVWD employees.

The solar power purchase agreement term is set at 30 years from the service commencement date. The lease agreement involves an easement over a portion of the property. Construction is

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anticipated to last up to 18 months, requiring minimal excavation for the placement of structures and equipment. All ground disturbance activities will take place on CVWD property. CVWD project sites are located in rural residential (developed) areas and are not within any conservation areas of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).

Lead Agency Approving Project and Contact: Coachella Valley Water District; Luis De Arco, Supervising Engineer / Phone: (760) 398-2651

Exempt Status:

- ☐ **Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- ☒ **Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- ☐ **Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- ☐ **Declared Emergency:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- ☐ **Emergency Project:** 15269(b)
- ☐ **Statutory Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines § 15277
- ☒ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines: §15301, §15303, §15311

Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) This commonsense exemption applies when there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment and therefore, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities) allows for the repair and maintenance of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use.

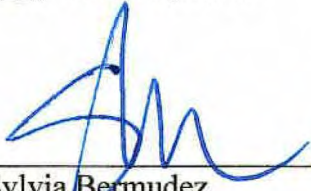
State CEQA Guidelines §15303 (d) (New Construction). This Class 3 exemption allows for the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. This includes water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

State CEQA Guidelines §15311 (b) (Accessory Structures). This Class 11 consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including parking lots.

Environmental Contact Person: Carlos Huerta, CVWD Environmental Resources Analyst, Phone (760) 398-2651

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Date: June 23, 2026



Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

File No.: 0001.3, 0055.4