Print Form

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): Santa Margarita Water District
26111 Antonio Parkway
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
(Address)

Project Title: Cathodic Protection Rehabilitation on Aufdenkamp Pipeline (ATM-4)

Project Applicant: Santa Margarita Water District

Project Location - Specific:

24851 1/2 Chrisanta, Mission Viejo

Project Location - City: Mission Viejo Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Replace existing cathodic protection rectifier and cathodic protection testing junction box. These replacements ensure proper cathodic protection for water transmission mains.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Margarita Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Margarita 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: Class 1 Exist Facs; Section 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The cathodic protection equipment is an existing facility and is covered under the Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilties) pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tricia Butler Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-459-6554

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: Patricia Butler Date: 7/14/26 Title: Special Projects 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:

Revised 2011

☐

30-06/2026-0488

ORANGE COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

202685000673
FILED
June 9, 2026
HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER
By _____
Deputy clerk

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk-Recorder

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

CATHODIC PROTECTION REHABILITATION ON AUFDENKAMP PIPELINE (ATM-4)

Check Document being Filed:

- [ ] Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- [ ] Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- [x] Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- [ ] Other (Please fill in type):

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ON 06/09/2026
Posted 06/09/2026 **Removed** _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY 135

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILED

JUN 09 2026

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: _____ DEPUTY

TO: ☐	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation State Clearinghouse P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	FROM: (Public Agency)	Name: Santa Margarita Water District Address: 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Telephone: 949.459.6400
☒	Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (Include County name) Address: Orange		

1.	Project Title:	Cathodic Protection Rehabilitation on Aufdenkamp Pipeline (ATM-4)
2.	Project Applicant (include address, telephone number and email address):	Santa Margarita Water District
3.	Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	24851-1/2 Chrisanta, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 Cross Streets: Chrisanta & La Paz Rd: (Approximately 1000 ft north of La Paz Road behind The Rock at Mount of Olives Church at a Santa Margarita Water District facility)
4.	(a) Project Location – City: Mission Viejo	(b) Project Location – County: Orange
5.	Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	Replace existing cathodic protection rectifier and cathodic protection testing junction box. These replacements ensure proper cathodic protection for water transmission mains.
6.	Name of Public Agency approving project:	Santa Margarita Water District
7.	Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Santa Margarita Water District
8.	Exempt status: (check one)	

(a) ☐ Ministerial project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) ☐ Not a project.	(State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15050(c)(2)-(3), 15378)
(c) ☐ Declared Emergency	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))
(d) ☐ Emergency Project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))
(e) ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	Covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.
(f) ☐ Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) ☐ Other. Explanation:	(State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3) Common Sense exemption)
9. Reason why project was exempt:	The cathodic protection equipment is an existing facility and is covered under the Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

10. Lead Agency Contact Person: Telephone:	Patricia A. Butler 949.459.6554
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Certificate of Determination (Form "B") before filing.	
12. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, the date of the public hearing was:	

Date: 6/4/2026

Patricia A. Butler

Signature

Name: Patricia A. Butler, P.E.

Title: Chief Engineer

☐ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

FILED

JUN 09 2026

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: _____ DEPUTY

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

CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION

(If Notice of Exemption filed by Project Applicant, Project Applicant must Attach to Notice of Exemption)

1.	Name or description of project:	Cathodic Protection Rehabilitation on Aufdenkamp Pipeline (ATM-4)	
2.	Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	24851-1/2 Chrisanta, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 Cross Streets: Chrisanta & La Paz Rd: (Approximately 1000 ft north of La Paz Road behind The Rock at Mount of Olives Church at a Santa Margarita Water District facility)	
3.	Entity or person undertaking project: Santa Margarita Water District 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688	A. Santa Margarita Water District	
		B. Other (Private)	
		(1) Name	
		(2) Address	

4. Staff Determination:

The Lead Agency's Staff, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Lead Agency's Local Guidelines for Implementing CEQA has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

a. ☐	The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.	
b. ☐	The project is a Ministerial Project.	
c. ☐	The project is an Emergency Project.	
d. ☐	The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.	
e. ☒	The project is categorically exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption Class:	Covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.
f. ☐	The project is statutorily exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption:	
g. ☐	The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:	
h. ☐	The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.	
	Name of Lead Agency:	

Date: 6/4/2026

Staff: Patricia A. Butler

Patricia A. Butler P.E., Chief Engineer

FILED

JUN 09 2026

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: _____ DEPUTY

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print | StartOver | Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:
30-06/09/2026-0488

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		06/09/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
ORANGE COUNTY	202685000673

PROJECT TITLE

CATHODIC PROTECTION REHABILITATION ON AUFDENKAMP PIPELINE (ATM-4)

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		(949) 459-6400

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY	RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA	CA	92688

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☒ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$ 4,227.50	$
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$ 3,043.75	$
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$ 1,437.25	$

☒ Exempt from fee

- ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$ 850.00	$
☐ County documentary handling fee	$ 50.00	$
☐ Other		$

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ 0.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	Roberto Uriostegui Deputy Clerk

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT | COPY - CDFW/ASB | COPY - LEAD AGENCY | COPY - COUNTY CLERK | DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01012026)

Orange County
Clerk-Recorder
Hugh Nguyen
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-2500

Receipt No.: RPT20260000173209

Finalization No.: 20260000171861

Cashier: 135

Register: SOUTHCOUNTY1A

Date/Time: 06/09/2026 02:05 PM

Item	Title	Count
1	Z01	1

EIR: Exempt or Previously Paid

Document ID	Amount
Doc# 202685000673	$0.00

Time Recorded 02:05 PM

Total Amount Due: $0.00

Total Paid

Amount Due: $0.00

THANK YOU
PLEASE RETAIN THIS RECEIPT
FOR YOUR RECORDS
www.ocrecorder.com