

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: Santa Margarta Lakefill Electrical Service Replacement, C-1348E.01

Project Applicant: Santa Margarita Water District

Project Location - Specific:

Cross Streets: Santa Margarita Pkwy and Antonio Pkwy, 670' west of intersection on Santa Margarita Parkway

Project Location - City: Rancho Santa Margarita Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Replace the existing SCE utility electrical meter panel and existing control panel. These replacements ensure proper power and control for the existing infrastructure.

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: _____
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301

Reasons why project is exempt:

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: _____



ORANGE COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

30-07106/2026-0587

202685000808

FILED

July 6, 2026

HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER

By *[Signature]*
Deputy clerk

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

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

SANTA MARGARITA LAKEFILL ELECTRICAL SERVICE REPLACEMENT, CONTRACT NUMBER C-1348E.01

Check Document being Filed:

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

**FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ORANGE
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ON 07/06/2026**
Posted 07/06/2026 Removed _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY 483

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

JUL 06 2026

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: VD 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:	Santa Margarita Lakefill Electrical Service Replacement, Contract Number C-1348E.01
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):	31295 Santa Margarita, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Cross Streets: Santa Margarita Parkway and Antonio Parkway, approx. 670' west of intersection on Santa Margarita Parkway.
4. (a) Project Location – City: Rancho Santa Margarita	(b) Project Location – County: Orange
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	Replace the existing SCE utility electrical meter panel, and existing control panel. These replacements ensure proper power and control for the existing infrastructure.
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 electrical meter and control panel infrastructure 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: 7/1/2026
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

JUL 06 2026

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: [Signature] 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:	Santa Margarita Lakefill Electrical Service Replacement, Contract Number C-1348E.01																																		
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3. Entity or person undertaking project: Santa Margarita Water District 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td colspan="2">A. Santa Margarita Water District</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">B. Other (Private)</td></tr><tr><td style="width: 10%;">(1) Name</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>(2) Address</td><td></td></tr></table>		A. Santa Margarita Water District		B. Other (Private)		(1) Name		(2) Address																										
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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: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="width: 10%;">a. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.</td></tr><tr><td>b. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The project is a Ministerial Project.</td></tr><tr><td>c. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The project is an Emergency Project.</td></tr><tr><td>d. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.</td></tr><tr><td>e. ☒</td><td colspan="2">The project is categorically exempt.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Applicable Exemption Class:</td><td>Covered under Class 1: Existing Facilities under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.</td></tr><tr><td>f. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The project is statutorily exempt.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Applicable Exemption:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>g. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:</td></tr><tr><td>h. ☐</td><td colspan="2">The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Name of Lead Agency:</td><td></td></tr></table>		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:	
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Date: 7/1/2026

Staff: Patricia A. Butler **FILED**
Patricia A. Butler P.E., Chief Engineer

JUL 06 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 **Generate** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:

30-07/06/2026-0587

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		07/06/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
ORANGE COUNTY	202685000808	
PROJECT TITLE		

SANTA MARGARITA LAKEFILL ELECTRICAL SERVICE REPLACEMENT, CONTRACT NUMBER C-1348E.01

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 	Kalci Do Deputy Clerk