

**FILED**

IMPERIAL COUNTY

Jul 29 2026

CHUCK STOREY, County Clerk

By B. Brook
Deputy Clerk**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: ☐ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of Imperial

☐ File
IID - ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION SECTION

From: (Public Agency)
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Address: P.O. BOX 937
IMPERIAL, CA 92251

Project Title: Drop 3 Unit 2 Overhaul

Project Location - Specific: Along the All-American Canal south of 4765 E Highway 98, Holtville, CA 92250

Project Location - City: Holtville Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Rehabilitate existing 5 MW vertical hydraulic turbine generator unit (Unit 2) at the Drop 3 Hydroelectric Facility to replace components at or near the end of their useful service life. The purpose is to restore hydraulic performance, extend equipment life, and ensure continuous, safe, and efficient hydroelectric generation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Imperial Irrigation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Imperial Irrigation District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 1526(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, Section 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt because it consists of routine maintenance, repair, and in-kind replacement of degraded internal mechanical components of an existing public utility turbine. All work will occur entirely within the established facility footprint, involves no physical expansion, results in zero change to the historically approved use, and will maintain the original generation capacity.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jeremy Brooks

Area Code/Telephone

Extension: (760) 339-9632**If filed by applicant:**

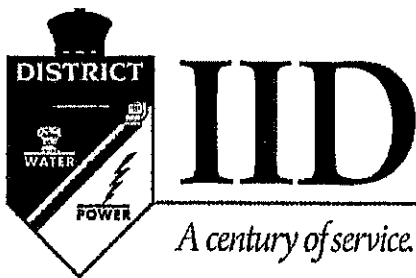
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
☒ Yes ☐ No

POSTED**JUL 29 2026**Signature: [Signature]Date: 07/13/2026Imperial County Clerk-Recorder
CaliforniaTitle: General Counsel

☐ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant ☐ IID Board Approved _____

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

POST FOR 30 DAYS



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Since 1911

DATE: July 10, 2026

SUBJECT: CEQA Exemption Finding for the Drop 3 Unit 2 Overhaul Project

Project Overview

- **Project Title:** Drop 3 Unit 2 Overhaul
- **Location:** 4765 E Highway 98, Holtville, CA 92250; 1/8-mile South and 1-mile West of the Interstate-8 junction with Highway 98, along the All-American Canal
- **County:** Imperial County
- **Lead Agency:** Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Project Description

The Imperial Irrigation District is undertaking a project to repair and rehabilitate an existing hydroelectric generating unit (Unit 2) within the existing Drop 3 Hydroelectric Facility. The scope of work includes replacing worn and deteriorated turbine components, installing a new oil-less adjustable-blade Kaplan runner, rehabilitating turbine and generator equipment, upgrading auxiliary mechanical systems, and replacing obsolete electrical, instrumentation, governor, and control system components. The purpose of the project is to restore the unit to reliable operation, improve equipment reliability, reduce maintenance requirements, extend the service life of the facility, and return approximately 5 MW of renewable hydroelectric generating capacity to service. All work will occur within the existing hydroelectric facility and will not expand the facility's footprint or increase its generating capacity beyond the existing design.

Environmental Determination

The IID Environmental Compliance Unit has formally reviewed the proposed scope of work and determined that the project is exempt from further environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project qualifies for the following Categorical Exemptions:

- **Class 1, Section 15301: Existing Facilities**

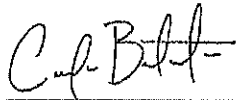
Justification for Exemption

This determination is based on the following findings:

- The project consists of the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of degraded turbine, generator, mechanical, electrical, and control system components of an existing public utility turbine.
- All work will occur entirely within the established facility footprint.
- The project involves no physical expansion of the facility.
- There will be zero change to the historically approved use of the site.
- The refurbishment will restore approximately 5 MW of existing renewable hydroelectric generation capacity to service.
- No special permitting or conditions are required for this project.
- No environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of project implementation

Certification

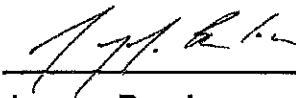
I hereby certify that the Imperial Irrigation District has reviewed the Drop 3 Unit 2 Overhaul project and independently found it to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the Imperial County Clerk-Recorder and the Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) to comply with CEQA.

Prepared By

Camila Bautista

Environmental Compliance Unit

Imperial Irrigation District

Certified By:

Jeremy Brooks

Environmental Compliance Unit

Imperial Irrigation District

Location Map

