

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of ORANGE

From: Caltrans District 12
1750 E. Fourth St. Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Project Title: Encroachment Permit 1226-6MW-0351

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: State Route 22 Project Location - City: Seal Beach Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The applicant, Orange County Water District (OCWD), seeks an Encroachment Permit requesting access to existing groundwater monitoring well via an unpaved access road within Caltrans Right of way, adjacent to State Route 22 (SR-22) in the city of Seal Beach; County of Orange. The location of the proposed project is approximately 925 feet north of SR-22 within the SR-22, I-405, I-605 freeway interchange area. The proposed project area will be accessed by vehicle via an unpaved utility road emanating from the shoulder of Westbound SR-22 near mile marker T0.259. OCFW needs to access the existing facility (monitoring well) for routine maintenance and monitoring. No modifications to the site or surrounding area is anticipated. The purpose of the project is OCWD needs access to existing groundwater monitoring well by way of the unpaved access road for maintenance and monitoring. The total Disturbed Soil Area is unknown. The work proposed by the applicant will occur within Caltrans Right of way. No new right of way is required. No work will be performed immediately adjacent to Caltrans Right of way. Monitoring and maintenance activities will be performed at the well site, approximately 850 feet away from SR-22. The public benefits.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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: 15300 Class 1(b)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project is exempt under CEQA 15300 Class 1(b)

Lead Agency Contact Person: Bahar Heydari

Phone number: 949-358-4691

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: Smita Deshpande Date: 8/18/26

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.