NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
CEQAsubmit.lci.ca.gov

☒ County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk
Attn: Fish and Wildlife Notices
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260, MS A-33
San Diego, CA 92101
ARCCSDCountyClerkHelp.FGG@sdcounty.ca.gov

FROM: County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Environmental Services Unit
Attn: Anissa Busch
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, MS O-332
San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name:	Launching the County of San Diego's Tijuana River Capture and Cleanup Initiative (Districts: All)
Project Location:	The project is located at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) on the U.S. side of the Tijuana River within the Tijuana River Valley
Project Applicant:	County of San Diego, Board / Supervisors District 3 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 335, San Diego, CA 92101
Project Description:	The proposed activity consists of allocating funding and conducting administrative and organizational actions necessary to initiate Phase 1 of the Tijuana River Capture and Cleanup Initiative. These actions include allocating and transferring $1,800,000 to support project evaluation and development; utilizing and amending existing Department of Public Works as-needed consultant contracts to provide adequate capacity for engineering analyses, alternatives development, and pre-design work; and initiating coordination with partner agencies on preliminary planning, environmental review, permitting pathways, and other foundational components needed to identify and advance a future treatment and capture system on the U.S. side of the Tijuana River.
Agency Approving Project:	County of San Diego
County Contact Person:	Lyle Pavuk Telephone: 619-339-4759
Date Form Completed:	September 1, 2026

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (County decision-making body) has approved the above-described project on September 1, 2026 (13) and found the project to be exempt from CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

☐ **Categorical Exemption**: Sec. G
☐ **Declared Emergency:** Sec. C 21080(b)(3); Sec. G 15269(a)
☐ **Emergency Project:** Sec. C 21080(b)(4); Sec. G 15269(b)(c)
☐ **General**: Sec. C.
☐ **Ministerial**: Sec. C 21080(b)(1); G 15268
☐ **Preliminary Review** :
☒ **Statutory Exemption**: Sec. G 15262 - Feasibility and Planning Studies

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: Section 15262 of the state CEQA Guidelines exempts from CEQA review a "project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency…has not approved, adopted or funded…" The Tijuana River Capture and Cleanup Initiative study is for informational purposes and is not binding on the County. The proposed activity is accordingly, exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15262 of the state CEQA Guidelines. Any future projects that may develop as a result of this feasibility study would require CEQA compliance prior to implementation.

The following is to be completed only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Emily Roberts Telephone: (619) 415-9920

Name (Print): Emily Roberts Title: Environmental Planning Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than nine months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.