NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FROM:

Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

TO: County of Orange
630 North Broadway
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Project Title: The City of Santa Ana Walnut Pump Station PFAS Treatment Project

Project Location: The Project would occur at the existing City of Santa Ana well SA-16, SA-29, SA-33 and SA-41 sites as well as a 0.4-mile pipeline within the existing alignment of Flower Street between the Walnut Pump Station and Well SA-41.

The physical address and coordinates of the components are provided below.

- Well 16: 1104 W. Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92703 APN# 405-191-01
- Well 29 is located at 722 W. First Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 APN# 398-214-01
- Well 33 is located at 900 W. Walnut Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703 APN#008-144-17
- Well 41 is located at 1104 W. Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92703 APN#405-191-01

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The City of Santa Ana Walnut Pump Station PFAS Treatment Project consists of removing PFAS contaminants from wells 16, 29, 33 and 41 at a new centralized PFAS treatment plant located in the Walnut Pump Station. The key project components include ion exchange vessels, booster pumps, cartridge filters, an expanded sodium hypochlorite disinfection system, a new water conveyance pipeline, flow meters, valves, drains, electrical and instrumentation control equipment. Eight ion exchange vessel systems in a lead-lag configuration (for a total of sixteen vessels) will be installed as part of the new centralized PFAS treatment plant. This Project also includes a new water conveyance pipeline to connect wells 16 and 41 to a new centralized PFAS treatment plant utilizing ion exchange in the Walnut Pump Station.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Orange County Water District

Exempt Status: (Check One)

____ Not a Project (Section 15378)
____ Ministerial (Section 15268)
____ Feasibility and Planning Study (Section 15262)
____ Emergency Project (Section 15269)
__X__ Categorical Exemption. (Class 3, 15303)
____ Not to be approved (Section 15270)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is consistent with the Categorical Exemption for the New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures because the project consists of the installation of a small treatment plant and associated pipelines at existing nearby water well sites that are currently developed and operated as water production infrastructure.

Signature:

Contact Person: Shawn Nevill, Principal Planner
(714) 378-3256

Date: 09/17/2026

Exhibit 1
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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Each of the project component locations are within City-owned public land and are within urbanized portions of the City of Santa Ana that have been previously developed.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Staff Determination:
The staff of the City of Santa Ana, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

____ 1. The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.
Name of Agency _____
____ 2. The proposed action does not constitute a project within the meaning of Section 15378.
____ 3. The project is a Ministerial Project under Section 15268.
____ 4. The project is an Emergency Project under Section 15269.
____ 5. The project constitutes a Feasibility or Planning Study under Section 15262.
____ 6. The proposal will not be approved as provided in Section 15270.
__X_ 7. The project is Categorically Exempt under Article 19 commencing with Section 15300 - Applicable Exemption Class 3.

Signature: _____

Contact Person: Shawn Nevill, Principal Planner
(714) 378-3256

Date: 09/17/2026