NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
FOR WATER CAPACITY FEES

September 16, 2026

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

From:
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
1966 Olivenhain Road
Encinitas, CA 92024

County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway. Suite 260
San Diego, CA 92010

PROJECT TITLE: The Olivenhain Municipal Water District has established Water Capacity Fees within Zones of Benefit effective November 16, 2026.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Olivenhain Municipal Water District encompasses approximately 31,000 acres in the northwestern portion of San Diego County. The District was originally incorporated on April 9, 1959, for the purpose of developing an adequate water supply to landowners and residents of the District. The District currently serves the community of Olivenhain, portions of Leucadia, Cardiff, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Diego, San Marcos, and neighboring communities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: The Project is to increase water capacity fees within Zones of Benefit based on the 2023 Water Capacity Fee Study for new customers and developments within the areas already served by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District. The purpose is the raising of essential funds to meet anticipated capital expenses in order to maintain existing water service levels within existing service areas. The fees will not be used to expand existing levels of water service.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:
Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:
Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

EXEMPT STATUS:

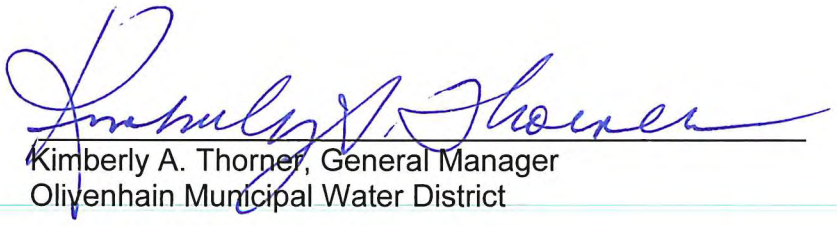
1. The fee increase is not a "Project" as defined by Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4).
2. The Project is statutorily exempt in accordance with Guidelines Sections 15273(a)(1), 15273(a)(3), and 15273 (a)(4).
3. The Project will not have any significant effect on the environment, Guideline Section 15061(b)(3).

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

1. No Project. Government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment are considered not to be a project under CEQA definitions. The Project is the revision of existing capacity fees, which will not result in any physical change in the environment. The revising of water capacity fees within Zones of Benefit is not being considered in conjunction with the approval or construction of any specific project, will not authorize or approve any project, and will be used solely to maintain service within the existing water service areas.

2. Exemption. CEQA statutorily exempts the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which public agencies find are for the purpose of: meeting operating expenses including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; meeting financial reserve needs and requirements; and obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas. The revised fees will be used solely for meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; meeting financial reserve needs and requirements; and to obtain funds for capital projects necessary to maintain existing water service within existing service areas.

3. No Significant Effect. A project is exempt from CEQA if the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The activity of increasing the water capacity fees will not have any significant effect on the environment. The fees have been set to maintain service within the existing water service areas and do not expand the District's system. No project is being authorized or approved as part of the water capacity fee revisions.

By: 

Kimberly A. Thorner, General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Signed by Lead Agency

CONTACT PERSON:

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