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County of Riverside
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Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
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10/07/2026 04:41 PM Fee: $ 50.00
Page 1 of 4
Removed: By: Deputy

IID

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

☒ County Clerk
County of Riverside

☐ File
IID - ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION SECTION

From: (Public Agency)
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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

Project Title: Hammond Road Distribution Line Upgrade Project

Project Location - Specific: Southeast of 68th Ave. along Hammond Rd. in Mecca, CA

Project Location – City: Mecca **Project Location – County:** Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Upgrade approximately two miles of overhead electrical distribution line along Hammond Road and 70th Avenue, including conductor and pole equipment upgrades and intermediate utility poles. The project will improve safety and reliability and meet General Order 95 standards within the established distribution corridor and right-of-way.

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 2, Section 15302 and Class 3, Section 15303
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

IID has determined this project qualifies for an exemption under 14 CCR §§ 15302 and 15303. The work consists of safety upgrades to electrical infrastructure within an established right-of-way, including intermediate poles necessary to support upgraded conductor and meet General Order 95 standards. The line will maintain its existing purpose and 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

Signature: _____ **Date:** 09/18/2026

Title: General Counsel

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

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

IID

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DATE: September 18, 2026

SUBJECT: CEQA Exemption Finding for the Hammond Road Distribution Line Upgrade Project

Project Overview

- **Project Title:** Hammond Road Distribution Line Upgrade Project
- **Location:** Southeast of 68th Ave. along Hammond Rd. in Mecca, CA.
- **County:** Riverside County
- **Lead Agency:** Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Project Description

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) proposes to upgrade approximately two miles of an existing overhead electrical distribution line along Hammond Road and 70th Avenue to meet current safety standards under General Order 95. The project includes replacing the existing 3/0 AAC conductor with 397.5 AAC conductor to meet new thermal and sag resistance standards, replacing crossarms and pin insulators on existing utility poles, and installing new intermediate poles within the existing alignment to provide the additional support necessary for the conductor. All work will remain within the established distribution corridor and right-of-way, with access from existing roadways and no new access roads required. The purpose of the project is to improve the safety and reliability of the electrical distribution system, reduce the risk of line or equipment failure, and maintain reliable electrical service to the public.

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 2, Section 15302:** Replacement or Reconstruction.
- **Class 3, Section 15303:** New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE · 333 E. BARIONI BLVD. · P.O. BOX 937 · IMPERIAL, CA 92251
TELEPHONE (760) 339-9564 · FAX (760) 339-9062

Justification for Exemption

This determination is based on the following findings:

- The project consists of safety and reliability upgrades to an existing IID overhead electrical distribution line within an established utility alignment and right-of-way to meet applicable General Order 95 standards.
- Existing conductor and associated pole equipment will be replaced or upgraded with no change in electrical capacity or utility function.
- New intermediate utility poles will be installed within the established alignment as necessary to safely support the upgraded conductor.
- The project will not establish a new electrical alignment or require new right-of-way or access roads.
- None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the project.

Certification

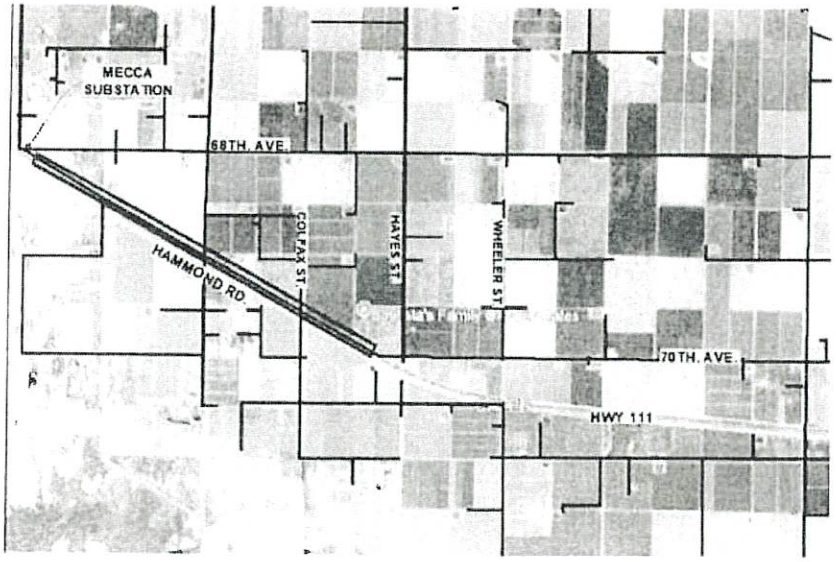
I hereby certify that the Imperial Irrigation District has reviewed the Hammond Road Distribution Line Upgrade project and independently found it to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15302 and Section 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the Riverside 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

The project is located 300 ft southeast of 68th Ave. along Hammond Rd. and 70th Ave, approximately 2 miles.