

Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk
County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607

From: Alameda County Water District
43885 S. Grimmer Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94538

Project Title: Newark Desalination Facility Programmable Logic Controller (PLC)
Upgrades and Foundation Fieldbus (FF) Replacement Project

Project Location – ACWD Newark Desalination Facility
6833 Redeker Place
Newark, CA 94560

Project Location – City: Newark **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The existing Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) throughout ACWD's distribution facilities have reached the end of their maintainable life, and they are no longer supported by their manufacturer. The existing PLC programming environment is also no longer supported, is incompatible with the new PLC hardware, and must be reconfigured in conjunction with the PLC hardware upgrades.

Foundation Fieldbus (FF) is a proprietary instrumentation and communication system that the District piloted at the Newark Desalination (Desal) facility. Support for FF in the USA has diminished since Desal was commissioned in 2003, and the system is no longer well received in the water industry. FF is not used elsewhere in the District. The existing instrumentation system is approaching the end of maintainable life, and hence requires replacement.

The Project involves removing the existing PLC equipment and installing new replacement PLC equipment within the existing electrical cabinets, removing existing FF instrumentation devices and installation of new replacement instrumentation devices in the existing process equipment and piping. Ancillary electrical work required to power the sensor includes installation of above-grade conduits and cabling within the existing Desal facility and restoration of any surfaces and other related activities.

Beneficiaries of this project include the customers of the Alameda County Water District that receive water from this facility

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Alameda County Water District

Name or Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Alameda County Water District

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: Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303
- ☐ Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code: Sec. 21080(b)(8)

Reasons why project is exempt: The Desal PLC + FF project meets requirements for the following exemptions:

- Class 1 exemption under Section 15301: The project may include minor alterations to an existing facility.
- Class 2 exemption under Section 15302: The project may include the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities.
- Class 3 exemption under Section 15303: The project may include installation of new equipment and facilities in small structures.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ricky Vera

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 510-668-4483

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 10/13/2026

Title Project Engineer

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency
- ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: