

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles

From: (Public Agency): Crescenta Valley Water District

2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA 91214

(Address)

Project Title: CVWD Groundwater Wells PFAS and Nitrate Water Treatment Facility Project

Project Applicant: Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD)

Project Location - Specific:

See Exhibit B of Resolution No. 809

Project Location - City: La Crescenta, Glendale Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The CVWD Groundwater Wells PFAS and Nitrate Water Treatment Facility Project consists of the installation, operation, and maintenance of water treatment facilities at eleven existing groundwater well sites operated by Crescenta Valley Water District. The Project includes pre-engineered ion exchange (IX) treatment systems, associated piping, valves, instrumentation, electrical improvements, and appurtenant facilities necessary to remove PFAS and nitrate from groundwater produced by the District's existing wells. The Project is intended to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal drinking water regulations and maintain a safe and reliable drinking water supply. All improvements will occur entirely within the existing operational footprints of the District's groundwater well facilities. The Project will not increase groundwater production capacity, alter extraction rates, expand facility boundaries, or increase the overall service capacity of the District's water system. The beneficiaries of the Project are the customers and residents served by Crescenta Valley Water District, who will receive a safer and more reliable drinking water supply.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Crescenta Valley Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Crescenta Valley 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: Class 1 (§15301), Class 2 (§15302), and Class 3 (§15303)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

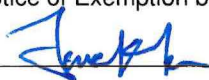
The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303. The Project consists of the installation and operation of PFAS and nitrate treatment facilities within eleven existing groundwater well sites operated by Crescenta Valley Water District. The construction, placement, and operation of the treatment systems will occur entirely within the existing operational footprints of the existing utility facilities. The Project does not require acquisition of new property, expansion of facility boundaries, or expansion of groundwater production capacity. The treatment facilities are designed solely to treat existing groundwater flows in order to comply with applicable drinking water regulations. The Project will not alter the existing use of the groundwater wells, increase pumping capacity, increase extraction rates, or expand the overall service capacity of the District's water system. The Project includes installation of small new utility equipment and appurtenant facilities, including ion exchange vessels, nitrate treatment systems, piping, controls, and associated infrastructure at existing utility sites. Accordingly, the Project qualifies for categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303. The District has also evaluated the Project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and determined that none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions apply.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: James Lee, General Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (818) 248-3925

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: Oct 14, 2026 Title: General Manager

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 2
October 13, 2026

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Gabriel Gomez, III – Director of Planning and Operations
Subject: CEQA Notice of Exemption – Statement of Reasons (SWRCB PFAS Grant)

ACTION ITEM:

Consideration and motion to adopt Resolution No. 809, Discussion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions with Los Angeles County for an application to SWRCB for a PFAS treatment grant.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this item is to consider adoption of a resolution filing a Notice of Exemption from CEQA with Los Angeles County, related to a potential application to the State Water Resources Control Board for grant monies related to PFAS and other treatment.

The District operates eleven groundwater wells that contribute to the District's local groundwater supply from the Verdugo Basin, making up 40-60% of the District's water supply depending on the annual hydrology and other factors. The District's wells contain various contaminants, including nitrates and various compounds from the PFAS family. The current mode of meeting regulatory standards is blending with imported water from Metropolitan Water District (MWD). This approach can lead to higher costs due to the higher cost and increasing cost of imported water, does not remove contaminants from water, and can pose an operational risk should imported water be curtailed or not be available due to statewide allocations or emergencies such as a seismic event.

In 2025, the District conducted a pilot and high-level scoping study with CDM Smith, which identified the efficacy of newer treatment media while providing high-level scope and costs for treatment options. The ~\$35 million to \$160 million costs for treatment alternatives identified in the study – a range of localized and centralized options – pose steep costs for ratepayers.

Staff identified an alternative approach of localized treatment at each well site. The approach is expected to address nitrates, current PFAS contaminants, future PFAS contaminants, and most or all other future organic contaminants. The high-end cost is projected at \$5 million – \$7 million, excluding ongoing annual O&M costs such as filtration media, staff time to operate, losses in pressure, and additional energy costs, and staff recently worked with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to determine and confirm eligibility for a grant. The grant matches District-provided funds at 51%. The District's PFAS settlement monies received to date total ~\$2.5 million.

Staff has determined that such a project would be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 CCR § 15000 et seq. None of the exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply. Specifically, the project qualifies under the following multiple, overlapping categorical exemptions:

- **Class 1: Existing Facilities (14 CCR § 15301):** Consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public

structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

- **Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):** Consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity.
- **Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (14 CCR § 15303):** Consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure.

Statement of Reasons Supporting the Exemption Findings

The specific justifications supporting the application of these exemptions to the project are as follows:

1. **Strict Use of Existing Footprint (Class 1 & 2):** The construction, placement, and operation of the new treatment systems will occur entirely within the existing utility footprints of the eleven active CVWD groundwater well facilities. The project does not require acquiring new public lands or expanding the current facility boundaries at any of the well sites.
2. **Small-Scale New Utility Infrastructure (Class 3):** The project entails the installation of small new utility equipment and treatment facilities at each of CVWD's eleven existing groundwater well sites, including pre-engineered treatment systems with ion exchange (IX) vessels and associated equipment. The treatment systems constitute the installation of small new equipment and facilities within existing utility sites and therefore fall within the types of small-scale construction and equipment installation covered by Class 3.
3. **No Expansion of Use or Capacity (Class 1 & 2):** The treatment systems are designed solely to treat existing water flows extracted from CVWD's eleven groundwater wells. The project is a water quality treatment improvement intended to remove PFAS and nitrate to comply with applicable state and federal drinking water standards and requirements. The project will not change or expand the nature or degree of the wells' existing use, increase pumping capacity, alter extraction rates, or expand the overall service capacity of the CVWD water distribution system.

Review of Exceptions (14 CCR § 15300.2)

CVWD staff evaluated the project against the exceptions to categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and confirmed that none apply:

- The site is not located in a sensitive or officially designated environmental resource area of critical concern.
- There are no successive projects of the same type in the same place that would create a significant cumulative impact.
- There is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

- The project will not impact scenic highways, is not located on any hazardous waste site list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, the project meets all criteria for Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Categorical Exemptions, and the filing of a Notice of Exemption is fully justified. The rationale has been reviewed with District's counsel as well.

Los Angeles County requires that the notice of exemption, approved by the Board by resolution, be filed.

Staff is working in parallel to complete and submit the grant application with SWRCB. In order to complete the application, an environmental review for a biological survey and cultural survey must be completed, and the District has engaged with Geosyntec for a not-to-exceed amount of \$17,500 on a time-and-materials basis.

The Board may elect to direct staff to disengage from the Project during the application process with SWRCB or if/when an award is granted to the District.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 809 to take the following actions:

1. Adopt the CEQA Exemption Findings: Determine that the CVWD Groundwater Wells PFAS and Nitrate Water Treatment Facility Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities), Section 15302 (Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction), and Section 15303 (Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).
2. Authorize staff to proceed with all actions necessary to implement the Project in accordance with applicable future District approvals and funding requirements.
3. Authorize Filing: Authorize and direct the General Manager, or their designee, to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse within five (5) business days of Board approval.


Vanessa Lumley
Regulatory Program Manager


Gabriel Gomez, III
Director of Planning and Operations

Attachments: Notice of Exemption
 Exhibit B
 Resolution 809

RESOLUTION NO. 809

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT APPROVING THE CVWD GROUNDWATER WELLS PFAS AND NITRATE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY PROJECT, ADOPTING CEQA EXEMPTION FINDINGS, ADOPTING THE STATEMENT OF REASONS AS EXHIBIT A, AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the Crescenta Valley Water District ("District") is dedicated to providing safe, high-quality, and reliable drinking water to its customers in compliance with all state and federal water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the District operates eleven active groundwater wells that contribute to the District's local groundwater supply from the Verdugo Basin; and

WHEREAS, the District has identified the need to construct water treatment facilities to remove Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances ("PFAS") and nitrate from water produced by its groundwater wells in order to comply with current and anticipated federal and state drinking water regulations and to maintain a safe and reliable drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, the CVWD Groundwater Wells PFAS and Nitrate Water Treatment Facility Project ("Project") consists of the installation of treatment facilities, including pre-engineered ion exchange ("IX") treatment systems, nitrate treatment equipment, associated piping, valves, instrumentation, electrical improvements, and appurtenant facilities at eleven existing groundwater well sites identified in Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, the Project will be constructed entirely within the existing operational footprints of the District's eleven groundwater well facilities, will not require expansion of facility boundaries, and will not increase groundwater production capacity, extraction rates, or the overall service capacity of the District's water system; and

WHEREAS, District staff evaluated the Project and determined that the Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities), Section 15302 (Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction), and Section 15303 (Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures); and

WHEREAS, District staff further determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the Project; and

WHEREAS, District staff prepared a Statement of Reasons supporting the determination that the Project is categorically exempt from CEQA, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Crescenta Valley Water District as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board hereby finds that the recitals set forth above are true and correct and incorporates them into this Resolution by this reference.

SECTION 2. The Board serves as the CEQA Lead Agency for the Project and, based upon the entire administrative record before it, hereby finds and determines that:

A. The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 - Existing Facilities), Section 15302 (Class 2 - Replacement or Reconstruction), and Section 15303 (Class 3 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures); and

B. None of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the Project; and

C. The Statement of Reasons attached as Exhibit A accurately describes the factual basis supporting the District's CEQA exemption findings and is hereby adopted and incorporated into this Resolution by reference.

SECTION 3. The Board hereby adopts the CEQA exemption findings set forth in this Resolution and authorizes District staff to proceed with all actions necessary to implement the Project in accordance with applicable District approvals and funding requirements.

SECTION 4. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the General Manager, or his or her designee, to file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse within five (5) business days following adoption of this Resolution and to take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Crescenta Valley Water District held on October 13, 2026. Resolution No. 809 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:	Director Bodnar
	Director Erickson
	Director Johnson
	Director Raghavachary
	Director Valdez
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None

ATTEST:



Secretary, Board of Directors
Crescenta Valley Water District



President, Board of Directors
Crescenta Valley Water District

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Arturo Montes, Secretary to the Board of the Crescenta Valley Water District, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution No. 809 of the Board of Directors of Crescenta Valley Water District adopted at a Regular Meeting held on October 13, 2026, and that the same has not been amended or repealed.


Secretary, Board of Directors
Crescenta Valley Water District

Dated: October 13, 2026

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Statement of Reasons
- Attachment B: Facilities Location

Exhibit B: Facilities Location

Name	Adress	Longitude	Latitude	APN	Township	Range	Section
Well 1	3246 Mills Ave	-118.251164	34.220713	5607-018-901	T02N	R13W	3
Well 2	4029 Lowell Ave.	-118.266241	34.231883	2572-005-900	T02N	R13W	29
Well 5	3937 Pennsylvania Ave.	-118.248794	34.219138	5607-017-008	T02N	R13W	33
Well 7	3317 Mills Ave.	-118.252167	34.221421	5607-015-900	T02N	R13W	33
Well 8	1425 Val Verde	-118.234461	34.20481485	5611-008-038	T01N	R13W	3
Well 9	3415 Honolulu Ave.	-118.253134	34.2234266	5607-004-900	T02N	R13W	28
Well 10	3730 Glenwood Ave.	-118.24235	34.2109437	5617-002-901	T02N	R13W	33
Well 11	3117 Honolulu Ave.	-118.247203	34.2161254	5610-004-040	T02N	R13W	33
Well 12	3730 Glenwood Ave.	-118.24235	34.2109437	5617-002-901	T02N	R13W	33
Well 14	2760 Sycamore Ave.	-118.23942	34.2096625	5611-015-902	T02N	R13W	34
Well 16	2714 Hermosa Ave.	-118.238047	34.2112651	5610-024-905	T02N	R13W	34