

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
CEQASubmit.lci.ca.gov

☒ County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk
Attn: Fish and Wildlife Notices
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260, MS A-33
San Diego, CA 92101
ARCCSDCountyClerkHelp.FGG@sdcounty.ca.gov

FROM: County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Environmental Services Unit
Attn: Anissa Busch
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, MS O-332
San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Adopt a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of San Diego and Advertise and Award a Construction Contract for Saturn Boulevard Pipe Extension Project and Related CEQA Exemption (District: 1)

Project Location: The project is located within the Tijuana River Valley, at the Saturn Boulevard culvert crossing which is located in the Nestor area near the City of Imperial Beach.

Project Applicant: County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123

Project Description: The Saturn Boulevard Pipe Extension project is a short-term emergency action to address the ongoing public health hazards caused by contaminated, turbulent flows at the Saturn Boulevard culvert crossing in the Tijuana River Valley. The current culverts at Saturn Boulevard convey water into the downstream river where turbulence causes significant foaming and release of malodorous gas (primarily hydrogen sulfide) into the air. The project will install two durable high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe extensions on existing culverts, discharging flows below the water surface downstream to reduce turbulence and aerosolization. Riprap will be placed for stability and best management practices to minimize environmental impacts. The County, serving as lead agency under a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of San Diego, has completed design, secured a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission, and will obtain emergency permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in accordance with emergency project protocols. Upon installation of a permanent infrastructure solution in the future, these two pipe extensions, riprap, and all associated components will be removed.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

County Contact Person: Samir Nuhaily Telephone: 619-507-7754

Date Form Completed: October 27, 2026

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (County decision-making body) has approved the above described project on October 27, 2026 (#17) and found the project to be exempt from CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- ☐ **Categorical Exemption:** Sec. G
☐ **Declared Emergency:** Sec. C 21080(b)(3); Sec. G 15269(a)
☒ **Emergency Project:** Sec. C 21080(b)(4); Sec. G 15269(b)(c)
☐ **General:** Sec. C.
☐ **Ministerial:** Sec. C 21080(b)(1); G 15268
☐ **Preliminary Review:** Sec. G
☒ **Statutory Exemption:** Sec. G 15269(b), (c) – Emergency Projects

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: Section 15269 (Emergency Projects) of the CEQA Guidelines exempts projects undertaken to address emergencies. The proposed project is an emergency project to make emergency modifications to public service facilities that are necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety, or welfare. Emergency modifications include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency. Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency are also exempt under CEQA guidelines. The Saturn Boulevard Pipe Extension Project's purpose is to reduce pollution and health hazards by reducing turbulence at the culvert outfall and minimizing the amount of hydrogen sulfide emitted into the air which contribute to the proclaimed local emergency. Therefore, the Project qualifies for a statutory exemption under Sections 15269(b) and 15269(c) of the CEQA Guidelines. Upon approval of this exemption finding, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Clerk of the Board in accordance with CEQA and County procedures.

The following is to be completed only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Emily Roberts Telephone: (619) 415-9920

Name (Print): Emily Roberts Title: Environmental Planning Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than nine months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.