30-10/19/2026-0863

ORANGE COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

202685001181
FILED
October 19, 2026
HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK - RECORDER
By _____
Deputy clerk

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk-Recorder

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

MONTEREY VILLA RECYCLED WATER PUMP STATION UPGRADE (C-1551.04)

Check Document being Filed:

- [ ] Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- [ ] Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- [x] Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- [ ] Other (Please fill in type):

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ON 10/19/2026
Posted 10/19/2026 **Removed** _____
Returned to agency on _____
DEPUTY 469

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office.For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:	FROM: (Public Agency)
☐ Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 ☒ Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (County of Orange) Address: 601 N Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701	Name: Santa Margarita Water District Address: 26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 Telephone: 949-459-6400 County of Orange Clerk-Recorder Office

1. Project Title:	Monterey Villa Recycled Water Pump Station Upgrade (C-1551.04)
2. Project Applicant:	Santa Margarita Water District
3. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	28826 Los Alisos Blvd., Mission Viejo, California, 92692. Off-site intertie is located along Live Oak Canyon Trail on the west side of Upper Oso Reservoir. Refer to attached map for location.
4. (a) Project Location – City: City of Mission Viejo	(b) Project Location – County: Orange
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project: FILED OCT 19 2026 ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT BY: _____ DEPUTY	Rehabilitation of the existing Monterey Villa Recycled Water Pump Station, which boosts recycled water from Zone D to Zone E for irrigation. Work includes replacement of the pumps, suction and discharge piping, valves and connections to existing mains; electrical, instrumentation, control and telemetry equipment; vault structural and access modifications; sump, drainage and ventilation improvements; and restoration of affected surfaces. An off-site intertie between existing potable and recycled-water systems at Upper Oso Reservoir will maintain Zone E irrigation service during construction. The station is not being upsized and existing demands remain unchanged. Beneficiaries are District recycled-water customers and District operations and maintenance staff. Refer to Attachment A.
6. Name of Public Agency approving project:	Santa Margarita Water District
7. Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Santa Margarita Water District
8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) ☐ Ministerial project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) ☐ Not a project.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15060(c)(2)-(3)
(c) ☐ Declared Emergency.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))

(d) ☐ Emergency Project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))
(e) ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	CEQA 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities and 15302 Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction.
(f) ☐ Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) ☐ Other. Explanation:	
9. Reason why project was exempt:	The work rehabilitates an existing public utility facility at the same site, serving the same recycled-water customers. Equipment and piping are replaced in kind, so there is no change in the footprint or capacity of the facility. The off-site intertie is a minor modification of existing utility systems installed to maintain service during construction, and is isolated after construction is complete. There is no expansion of existing use.

10. Lead Agency Contact Person:	Patricia Butler, SMWD Chief Engineer
Telephone:	
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Certificate of Determination (Form "B") before filing.	
12. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, the date of the public hearing was:	

Patricia Butler Date: 10/19/2026

Signature

Patricia Butler Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

Name

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

FILED

OCT 19 2026

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: _____ DEPUTY

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

CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION

(If Notice of Exemption filed by Project Applicant, Project Applicant must Attach to Notice of Exemption)

1.	Name or description of project:	Monterey Villa Recycled Water Pump Station Upgrade (C-1551.04)	
2.	Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	28826 Los Alisos Blvd., Mission Viejo, California, 92692. Off-site intertie is located along Live Oak Canyon Trail on the west side of Upper Oso Reservoir. Refer to attached map for location.	
3.	Entity or person undertaking project:	A. Santa Margarita Water District	
		B. Other (Private)	N/A
		(1) Name	Santa Margarita Water District
		(2) Address	26111 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
4.	Staff Determination:		

The Lead Agency's Staff, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Lead Agency's Local Guidelines for Implementing CEQA has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

a.	☐	The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.	
b.	☐	The project is a Ministerial Project.	
c.	☐	The project is an Emergency Project.	
d.	☐	The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.	
e.	☒	The project is categorically exempt.	
		Applicable Exemption Class:	CEQA 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities and 15302 Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction.
f.	☐	The project is statutorily exempt.	
		Applicable Exemption:	
g.	☐	The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:	
h.	☐	The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.	
		Name of Lead Agency:	

Date: 10/19/2026

Patricia Butler

Staff: Patricia Butler
Title: SMWD Chief Engineer

FILED

OCT 19 2026

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: _____ DEPUTY

Attachment A

Project Description and Location

Monterey Villa RWPS Upgrade | Contract C-1551.04

Santa Margarita Water District will rehabilitate the existing Monterey Villa Recycled Water Pump Station, which boosts recycled water from Zone D to Zone E for irrigation. Work includes replacement of the pumps with a District-furnished Grundfos skid; suction and discharge piping, valves and connections to existing mains; electrical, instrumentation, control and telemetry equipment; vault structural and access modifications; sump, drainage and ventilation improvements; and restoration of affected pavement, sidewalk, curb, gutter and striping.

An off-site intertie between existing potable and recycled-water systems at Upper Oso Reservoir will maintain service during construction. After station service is restored, the backflow preventer will be removed and the intertie piping left isolated with blind flanges for potential future maintenance use.

The station is not being upsized. Existing demands and the station's recycled-water service remain unchanged. The improvements enhance reliability, efficiency, operational flexibility and maintenance safety for District customers and staff; preparedness for future operating needs does not include an expansion of service under this project.

SITE ADDRESS: 28826 LOS ALISOS BLVD, MISSION VIEJO, CA 92692

LOCATION MAP

NO SCALE

Location map: SMWD Final Drawings, Sheet G-1, August 2026.

FILED

OCT 19 2026

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: _____ DEPUTY

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print | StartOver | Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:
30-10/19/2026-0863

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
CITY OF MISSION VIEJO		10/19/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING		DOCUMENT NUMBER
ORANGE COUNTY		202685001181

PROJECT TITLE

MONTEREY VILLA RECYCLED WATER PUMP STATION UPGRADE (C-1551.04)

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT		(949) 459-6400
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY STATE	ZIP CODE
26111 ANTONIO PARKWAY	RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA CA	92688

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☒ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$ 4,227.50	$
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$ 3,043.75	$
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$ 1,437.25	$

☒ Exempt from fee

- ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$ 850.00	$
☐ County documentary handling fee	$ 50.00	$
☐ Other		$

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED $ 0.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	Nancy Bailon Deputy Clerk

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT | COPY - CDFW/ASB | COPY - LEAD AGENCY | COPY - COUNTY CLERK | DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01012026)