13-2026-121

FILED
IMPERIAL COUNTY
Oct 28 2026
CHUCK STOREY, County Clerk
By B Villah
Deputy Clerk

IID
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## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

☒ **County Clerk**
County of Imperial

☐ **File**
IID - ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION SECTION

From: (Public Agency)
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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

**Project Title:** Pilot Knob Unit 1 Refurbishment

**Project Location - Specific:** Along the All-American Canal near 450 Algodones Road, Winterhaven, CA 92283

**Project Location – City:** Winterhaven **Project Location – County:** Imperial

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Rehabilitate the existing Unit 1 hydroelectric turbine-generator at the Pilot Knob Hydroelectric Plant to repair, refurbish, or replace components at or near the end of their useful service life. The purpose is to improve equipment reliability, extend the service life of the generating unit, and maintain safe and reliable hydroelectric generation.

**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 1, Section 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project is exempt because it consists of the repair, refurbishment, and replacement of components associated with an existing hydroelectric generating unit. All work will occur entirely within the established facility footprint, involve no physical expansion, result in no change to the existing use, and maintain the existing generation 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:** 09/28/2026

**Title:** General Counsel

POSTED

☐ **Signed by Lead Agency** ☐ **Signed by Applicant** ☐ **IID Board Approved** OCT 28 2026

**Date received for filing at OPR:** ~~POST FOR 30 DAYS~~

Imperial County Clerk-Recorder
California

IID

www.iid.com

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*Since 1911*

**DATE:** September 28, 2026

**SUBJECT:** CEQA Exemption Finding for the Pilot Knob Unit 1 Refurbishment Project

**Project Overview**

- **Project Title:** Pilot Knob Unit 1 Refurbishment
- **Location:** 450 Algodones Road, Winterhaven, CA 92283; approximately 1/2 mile south of Interstate 8, along the All-American Canal.
- **County:** Imperial County
- **Lead Agency:** Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

**Project Description**

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) proposes to refurbish the existing Unit 1 hydroelectric generating unit at the Pilot Knob Hydroelectric Plant. The project includes disassembly and inspection of the turbine, generator, and associated mechanical equipment, followed by refurbishment, repair, or replacement of components as necessary based on their condition. The unit will then be reassembled, tested, and commissioned for continued operation. All work will occur within the existing hydroelectric facility and will not expand the facility footprint or increase its generating capacity. The purpose of the project is to address age-related deterioration, improve equipment reliability, reduce maintenance requirements and the risk of unplanned outages, and extend the service life of the existing generating unit.

**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 1, Section 15301:** Existing Facilities

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE · 333 E BARIONI BLVD · PO 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 the repair, refurbishment, and replacement of components associated with an existing hydroelectric generating unit.
- All work will occur entirely within the established facility footprint.
- The project will not result in an expansion of the existing facility or its generating capacity.
- There will be no change to the historically approved use of the site.
- No special permitting or conditions are required for this project.
- No significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of project implementation.

**Certification**

I hereby certify that the Imperial Irrigation District has reviewed the Pilot Knob Unit 1 Refurbishment project and independently found it to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) will be filed with the Imperial County Clerk-Recorder and the Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) to comply with CEQA.

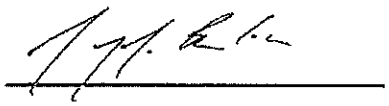
**Prepared By**

**Camila Bautista**

Environmental Compliance Unit

Imperial Irrigation District

**Certified By:**



**Jeremy Brooks**

Environmental Compliance Unit

Imperial Irrigation District

## Location Map