

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Coachella Valley Water District
Post Office Box 1058
Coachella, California 92236

☒ County Clerk
County of Riverside
Post Office Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502

☐ County of Imperial
Imperial County Clerk/Recorder
940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

☒ State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☐ County of San Diego
Recorder/County Clerk's Office
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
Post Office Box 121750
San Diego, CA 92112-1750

Project Title: Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment, Phase 2 Mitigation Project (the "Mitigation Project")

Project Location: The Mitigation Project is located in the northwest corner of a 136-acre parcel (assessor's parcel number [APN] 729-170-012), (NE ¼ of Section 36, Township 7 South, Range 9 East, San Bernardino Meridian) located near Garfield Street and 72nd Avenue. The site is in unincorporated Riverside County near the community of North Shore.

Lead Agency / Applicant: Coachella Valley Water District ("CVWD")
Contact: Armando Rodriguez, Engineering Manager – Sanitation and Electrical
Phone: (760) 398-2651

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Mitigation Project serves to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements imposed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") Clean Water Act Section 404 permit in connection with the Replenishment Project.

The Mitigation Project will create 3.124 acres of wetlands composed primarily of wetland marsh and intermixed riparian habitat, utilizing approximately 36 acre feet per year of imported Colorado River Water supplied by CVWD. The wetland compensatory mitigation site will require a new 12-inch PVC irrigation pipeline, approximately 3,100 feet long, to provide irrigation for the constructed wetland. Water supply will include necessary appurtenances such as valves and meters for operation. A pipeline easement of 3,100 feet is required within portions of Assessor Parcel Nos. (APNs) 729-140-011 and 729-140-012; the pipelines will be installed in existing pre-disturbed dirt roads. On May 28, 2025, CVWD adopted a Resolution of Necessity to commence an eminent domain proceeding to acquire 1.26 acres of easement, located in the unincorporated area of Riverside County, California, portions of APNs 729-140-011 and 729-140-012 for the Mitigation Project.

Exempt Status:

☒ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines: State CEQA Guidelines, §15333

Reasons why project is exempt:

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)
Coachella Valley Water District

State CEQA Guidelines section 15333 (the “Class 33 exemption”) applies to small habitat restoration projects that do not exceed five acres in size and that assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. Here, the Mitigation Project falls squarely within the Class 33 exemption as it will provide for 3.124 acres of wetlands composed primarily of wetland marsh and intermixed riparian habitat. (See State CEQA Guidelines, § 15333 [exemption explicitly applies to wetland restoration projects].)

A biological technical memorandum confirmed that the Mitigation Project would not result in any significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat. The Mitigation Project would not result in any mandatory findings of significance under State CEQA Guidelines section 15065. Moreover, an aquatic resource evaluation of the site was conducted and determined the site to be located in non-jurisdictional, disturbed uplands.

Furthermore, there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed as a result of the Mitigation Project. Nor would the Mitigation Project result in any significant cumulative impacts, i.e., impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. There are no unusual circumstances relating to the Mitigation Project, and the Mitigation Project will not result in any significant impact on the environment.

Environmental Contact Person: Carlos Huerta, CVWD Environmental Resources Analyst; Phone (760) 398-2651

Date:

Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

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

File No.