

**CEQA Exemption Determination Form**  
Coachella Valley Water District

Salt and Nutrient Management Plan  
Monitoring Well Project – Phase 1

Project Title

0423.25.1/R01901

File No. / Project No.

**Project Description:**

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) proposes to construct eight perched aquifer groundwater monitoring wells within the Coachella Valley's Indio and Desert Hot Springs Subasin at various well site locations. These locations were selected to fill gaps in CVWD's groundwater monitoring well network. The network was designed to comply with requirements of the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV-SNMP) Groundwater Monitoring Work plan approved on February 21, 2021, by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. As part of CV-SNMP monitoring network specific monitoring gaps have been identified with corresponding preferred locations of monitoring wells. The proposed monitoring wells will be used to monitor groundwater in the perched and shallow aquifers to address gaps and provide improved overall understanding of water quality. The locations of the proposed monitoring well sites are:

1. Gap Well 17 – APN 696-180-067 (City of Indio well site; Ave. 44, Indio)
2. Gap Well 18 – APN 757-250-021 (CVWD Well Site 6807, Ave. 60, Coachella)
3. Gap Well 19 – APN 759-020-029 (CVWD Well Site 6805, Airport Ave., La Quinta)
4. Gap Well 20 – APN 737-200-023 (CVWD parcel at Ave. 83 Drain, Oasis)
5. Gap Well 21 – APN 751-340-018 (CVWD parcel at Ave. 74 and Polk St., Oasis)
6. Gap Well 22 – APN 729-120-020 (CVWD Booster/Reservoir Site 7990, Mecca)
7. Gap Well G3 – APN 654-190-036 (CVWD Reservoir Site 3501, Desert Hot Springs)
8. Gap Well G4 – APN 750-030-009 (CVWD Booster/Reservoir Site 4701, Desert Hot Springs)

Construction is anticipated for the duration of one week at each existing site, and will be contained within each existing site. The wells will be installed using hollow-stem auger, sonic drilling, direct circulation, or mud rotary methods. Initially, the drilling process will require setting a conductor casing and drilling a 4-inch bore hole to a varying depth of 50- to 350-feet for each well. Samples of the drill cuttings will be obtained and logged at 10-foot intervals. Upon completion of drilling, geophysical logging of the test bores will be performed. The wells will be designed based on the information obtained from each borehole. Monitoring will occur at each site as needed and conducted by CVWD staff.

The project sites are not located within a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). CVWD Reservoir/Booster Station 4701 is adjacent to the Indio Hills/Joshua Tree National Linkage Conservation Area, and subject to the CVMSHCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines for drainage, noise, toxics, lighting, and invasives. The sites are not subject to the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee because the sites are previously developed.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption Determination:**

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

- ☐ **Not a project:** State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- ☐ **Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption:** State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- ☐ **Ministerial:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- ☐ **Declared Emergency:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- ☐ **Emergency Project:** (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guideline §15269(b)(c))
- ☐ **Statutory Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines §
- ☒ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines §15301, §15303, §15306

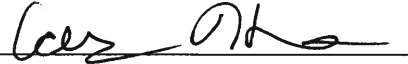
**Reasons why project is exempt:**

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities). This class 1 exemption allows for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project consists of minor alteration on existing sites, and does not involve a significant expansion of use. The previously developed sites include those from CVWD and partnering agencies including: City of Indio at Gap Well 17 – APN 696-180-067 (City of Indio well site; Ave. 44, Indio).


State CEQA Guidelines § 15303 (New Construction). This class 3 exemption allows for the 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. The project involves the installation of eight monitoring wells; whereas these monitoring wells are considered small structures on existing CVWD sites. CVWD's Local CEQA Guidelines 2020 includes examples of small structures which further describe how CVWD applies definitions of small structures under CEQA, which includes well sites (CVWD Local Guidelines 2020, page 3-21).

State CEQA Guidelines § 15306 (Information Collection). This class 6 exemption consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project involves information collection from shallow monitoring wells for the evaluation of nearby CVWD facilities, and improvement of CV-SNMP monitoring, data collection strategy and information used to better inform groundwater management.

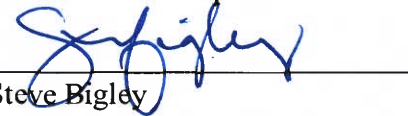
As an exempt project, no further environmental review is required and a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the County Clerk and/or State Clearinghouse.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlos Huerta  
Environmental Specialist

09.28.22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Patterson  
Environmental Supervisor

9.28.22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Bigley  
Director of Environmental Services

9/29/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/22) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:

22-364071

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

2022100132

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

WPATTERSON@CVWD.ORG

DATE

10/07/2022

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

RIVERSIDE

DOCUMENT NUMBER

E-202200986

PROJECT TITLE

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING WELL PROJECT - PHASE 1

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

WPATTERSON@CVWD.ORG

PHONE NUMBER

(760) 398-2651

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

75515 HOVELY LANE, E,

CITY

PALM DESERT

STATE

CALI

ZIP CODE

92211

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☐ Local Public Agency

☐ School District

☒ Other Special District

☐ State Agency

☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

\$3,539.25

\$

☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)

\$2,548.00

\$

☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW

\$1,203.25

\$

☒ 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

\$

\$50.00

SIGNATURE

X *James A. Zimmerman*

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Deputy



Lead Agency: Coachella Valley Water District  
ATTN: William Patterson  
Address: 75515 Hovely Lane, E  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

## FILED / POSTED

County of Riverside  
Peter Aldana  
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

E-202200986  
10/07/2022 12:54 PM Fee: \$ 50.00  
Page 1 of 3

Removed: By: Deputy



(SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE)

## Project Title

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING WELL PROJECT – PHASE 1

## Filing Type

- ☐ Environmental Impact Report
- ☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration
- ☒ Notice of Exemption
- ☐ Other:

## Notes

**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: Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Monitoring Well Project – Phase 1

Project Location: The project sites are located on developed, CVWD-owned parcels, and existing well sites, in eastern Coachella Valley, Riverside County, CA.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) proposes to construct eight perched aquifer groundwater monitoring wells within the Coachella Valley's Indio and Desert Hot Springs Sub-basin at various previously developed well site locations. The proposed monitoring wells will be used to monitor groundwater in the perched and shallow aquifers to address gaps and provide an improved overall understanding of water quality. The locations of the proposed monitoring well sites are:

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The project sites are not located within a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). CVWD Reservoir/Booster Station 4701



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (Continued)  
Coachella Valley Water District

is adjacent to the Indio Hills/Joshua Tree National Linkage Conservation Area and subject to the CVMSHCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines for drainage, noise, toxics, lighting, and invasives. The sites are not subject to the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee because the sites are previously developed.

Lead Agency Approving Project and Contact: Coachella Valley Water District; William Patterson  
Environmental Supervisor / Phone: (760) 398-2651

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Not a project: State CEQA Guidelines §15378
- ☐ Review for Exemption/Common Sense Exemption: State CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3)
- ☐ Ministerial: (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guideline §15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency: (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guideline §15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project: (Pub. Res. Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guideline §15269(b)(c))
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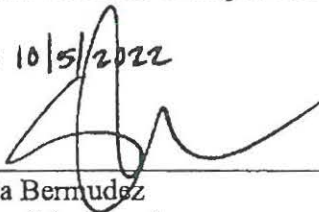
Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities). This class 1 exemption allows for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project consists of minor alterations on an existing domestic well site and does not involve a significant use expansion.

State CEQA Guidelines §15303 (New Construction and Conversion of Small Structures) consists of the 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.

State CEQA Guidelines § 15306 (Information Collection). This class 6 exemption consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Date: 10/5/2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Bermudez  
Clerk of the Board

Authority cited:  
Reference:

File No. 0423.25, 0710.1017.14