

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: Lift Station 55-11 Capacity Upgrade Project

Project Location: The project is located in the unincorporated area of Mecca, CA to the southeast of where California State Route 86 crosses Route 111 in the Coachella Valley Water District. LS 55-11 is accessed by a gate to the eastern side Hammond Road

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Lift Station 55-11 project (Project) will consist of improvement upgrades to the existing Lift Station 55-11 site. LS 55-11 was built approximately 30 years ago, is deteriorating and in need of replacement. The facility has been identified as highly vulnerable to failure and sanitary service interruptions, potentially causing public health concern and environmental impacts through sanitary overflow. Improvements will bring the facility into compliance with CVWD standard design requirements. The improvements will ensure a continuation of sanitation services to existing and future customers while providing an emergency response inflow capacity, in the event of stormwater events or other unanticipated inflow increases. The Project includes the following improvement upgrades within the existing Lift Station 55-11 site:

- Installation of a new wet well to provide pumping storage capacity of 16,547 gallons. Current Capacity is 0 gallons.
- The replacement of two existing pumps (each 50 horse power (hp); 1,540 gallon per minute (gpm)) with two new pumps (each 100 hp; 1,870 gpm). The firm pumping capacity will increase from 1,540 gpm to 1,870 gpm.
- Re-purposing the existing wet well for back-up pumping during emergencies. The new emergency pumping capacity will be 1,540 gpm.
- Installation of one new biofilter for odor control located to the north of the wet well.
- Replace the existing generator, 100 kilowatt (kW), with a new one at 450 kW.
- Install one pre-fabricated building to house electrical equipment (MCC and control equipment).
- Replace existing MCC (225 Amps) with new one at 600 Amps.

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The existing wet well to be re-purposed is 10-feet diameter and 17.7 feet deep. The new wet well will be 16 feet in diameter and 32 feet deep. The project will include site improvements to add site piping, paved access driveways, perimeter fencing, and lighting. The upgrades to the existing Lift Station 55-11 facility is anticipated to begin in September of 2023 and to be completed in December of 2024. The surrounding land uses consist of residential, farm land, open space, and roadways. The existing lift station will continue to convey wastewater while the upgrades are under construction causing no disruptions in services. The Project is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area associated with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). 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:** 15269(b)
- ☐ **Statutory Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines § 15277
- ☒ **Categorically Exempt:** State CEQA Guidelines: §15301, §15302, §15303

Reasons why project is exempt:

State CEQA Guidelines §15269(b) (Emergency Projects) Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.

State CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities). This Class 1 exemption allows for the repair and maintenance of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use.

State CEQA Guidelines §15302 (Replacement of Reconstruction). This Class 2 exemption allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

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.

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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.