



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
10500 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Post Office Box 8300
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8300

To: County of Orange
630 North Broadway
Suite 106, Bldg 12
Santa Ana, CA 92702
Attn: Public Services Division

From: Orange County Water District
10500 Ellis Avenue
Post Office Box 8300
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8300

Project Title: Basin Cleaning Vehicles for Four Deep Recharge Basins

Project Location – Specific: The proposed project site is located at four existing recharge facilities owned by the Orange County Water District. The four existing recharge facilities are located in the cities of Anaheim and Orange and are shown on the attached Figure 1. The addresses of the four recharge facilities are: Anaheim Lake: 3443 E. Miraloma Ave, Anaheim CA; Kraemer Basin: 3151 E. Miraloma Ave, Anaheim, CA; Burris Pit: 14893 E. Ball Road, Anaheim CA; Bond Pit: 865 N. Prospect, Orange, CA.

Project Location – City: Anaheim and Orange **Project Location – County:** Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

One of OCWD's primary roles is recharging the groundwater basin so that groundwater levels are maintained as water is extracted from the basin. The District currently recharges approximately 200,000 to 250,000 acre-feet of water annually at facilities in Anaheim and Orange.

The clogging layer that develops in the basins over time diminishes the recharge capacity. Periodically, this clogging layer must be removed in order to restore percolation in the basin. This is primarily accomplished by removing the basin from service, drying the material, and removing the clogging layer with heavy equipment. The process takes a month or more. In order to reduce the amount of time basins are out of service, OCWD has developed a basin cleaning vehicle (BCV) which can continuously remove the clogging layer while the basin is full. Several iterations of the design have resulted in an effective device for cleaning the basins while still in service.

The deep recharge basins Anaheim Lake, Kraemer Basin, Burris Basin, and Bond Pit range from just over 50 feet in depth to 160 feet. This depth provides a challenge to cleaning the clogging layer. Draining and cleaning the basin with heavy equipment and then refilling would take even longer than the shallow basins due to the volume of water. An effective basin cleaning vehicle used in these basins could account for an additional 56,000 afy of recharge. One basin cleaning vehicle will be installed in each of the four existing recharge basins.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Orange County Water District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301 Class 1 existing facilities
Section 15303 Class 3: small structures
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is an alteration of four existing facilities. The alteration of the existing facilities is consistent with the intention of the CEQA guidelines, Section 15301, for exemption on alterations to existing public structures, and Section 15303, new construction of small structures.. The project does not increase the size of the four existing facilities. The project will allow the four existing facilities to be maintained more efficiently.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Greg Woodside Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (714) 378-3275

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding (see Exhibit 1).
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project ? • Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: 4/19/2007 Title: Director of Planning and Watershed Management

- Signed by Lead Agency Date receiving for filing at OPR: _____
- Signed by Applicant

Exhibit 1
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
10500 Ellis Avenue
Post Office Box 8300
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8300

Name of Project: Basin Cleaning Vehicles for Four Deep Recharge Basins

Location: Cities of Anaheim and Orange in the County of Orange

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Orange County Water District, 10500 Ellis Avenue, Post Office Box 8300, Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8300

Staff Determination:

The staff members of the Orange County Water District (OCWD), having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, have concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency. Name of Agency _____
- 2. The proposed action does not constitute a project within the meaning of Section 15378.
- 3. The project is a Ministerial Project under Section 15268.
- 4. The project is an Emergency Project under Section 15269.
- 5. The project constitutes a Feasibility or Planning Study under Section 15262.
- 6. The proposal will not be approved as provided in Section 15270.
- 7. The project is Categorically Exempt under Section 15301 Exemption Class 1 and 15303 Class 3.

Signature: _____

Contact Person: Greg Woodside, OCWD Director of Planning and Watershed Management,
Tel: (714) 378-3275

Date: 4/19/2007