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Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder



NO FEE

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Exempt per Gov't Code 6103

RETURN TO: Jo Ann Corey
corey@irwd.com
Irvine Ranch Water District
P.O. Box 57000
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92619-7000
949-453-5300

FILED

MAR 18 2021

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: DA County Clerk's Filing Station DEPUTY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
(State Guidelines 15062)

TO: Orange County Clerk-Recorder
County Administration South
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

FROM: Santiago Aqueduct Commission
c/o Irvine Ranch Water District
P.O. Box 57000
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92619-7000
(949) 453-5300

POSTED

MAR 18 2021

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: DA DEPUTY

Project Name: 54-inch Baker Pipeline Realignment in Reach 1U Through Santiago Creek

Project Location: Downstream of Santiago Lateral Turnout OC-33 in Irvine Regional Park
See Exhibit "A"

County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Santiago Aqueduct Commission (SAC), owns and operates an approximately 12-mile-long transmission pipeline from the Metropolitan Water District's Santiago Lateral to the Baker Water Treatment Plant, located in the City of Lake Forest. The pipeline ranges in diameter from 54-inches to 39-inches and consists of five separate "reaches". The pipeline begins in Reach 1U at the Santiago Lateral and terminates in Reach 5U at the Baker Water Treatment Plant, which is a 28 million gallon per day drinking water plant that serves several south Orange County water agencies. The primary purpose of the pipeline is to convey untreated water from the Santiago Lateral to the Baker Water Treatment Plant for treatment.

In 2020, SAC confirmed that a portion of the Baker Pipeline, located just downstream of the Santiago Lateral Turnout OC-33 in Reach 1U, became partially exposed. The exposed portion of the pipeline is located within Santiago Creek in Irvine Regional Park.

03/03-18/2021-0180

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BY: JA DEPUTY

The pipeline was initially designed and constructed with about 6-feet of cover across the creek, but since its construction, it appears that the creek has widened by about 50-feet and lowered in depth by more than 7-feet, which has resulted in the exposure of about 35 linear feet of the upper portion of the pipeline.

To address the existing pipeline exposure and to minimize the potential for future exposure of additional portions of the pipeline, a new 350-foot segment of 54-inch diameter pipeline will be constructed at a depth of about 10-feet along the existing pipeline alignment across the width of Santiago Creek. The pipeline segment will be welded steel, concrete mortar-lined and coated to match the material in the existing pipeline.

SAC will prepare permit applications for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Natural Communities Commission.

Name of Public Agency Approving and Carrying out this Project: Santiago Aqueduct Commission
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618
Contact Person: Jo Ann Corey, Environmental Compliance Analyst
Area Code 949 Phone 453-5326

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec 21080(b)(1); (State Guidelines Sec. §15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); State Guidelines Sec. §15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec 21080(b)(4); (State Guidelines Sec. §15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15301)
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15302)
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15303)
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15306)
- Statutory Exemption State code number (State Guidelines §15282)

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Reasons why project is exempt:

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

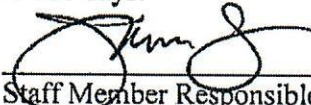
BY: JA DEPUTY

According to Section 15601 of the CEQA Guidelines, a project is exempt if it is pursuant to a categorical exemption and the application of that categorical exemption is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2. This project is exempt per State Guidelines §15301 and §15302.

State Guideline §15301 provides exemption for the operation, repair, maintenance, 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. State Guideline §15302 provides exemption for 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 including but not

limited to: (b) replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose and capacity; and (c) replacement of or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Submission of this form is optional. Local agencies may file this form with the county clerk pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). The filing of the notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project under Public Resources Code Section 21167(d). Failure to file the notice results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.



Staff Member Responsible for Preparation

Kevin L Burton

Santiago Aqueduct Commission Engineer

3/15/2021

Date

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Exhibit "A"
Location Map

