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**Exempt per Gov't Code 6103**

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
(State Guidelines 15062)

County Clerk's Filing Stamp

**POSTED**

**AUG 09 2016**

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

**FILED**

**AUG 09 2016**

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

TO: Orange County Clerk-Recorder  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 101  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

FROM: Irvine Ranch Water District (Applicant & Lead Agency)  
P.O. Box 57000  
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue  
Irvine, CA 92619-7000  
(949) 453-5300

Project Name: Energy Storage Systems Project – Michelson Water Recycling Plant

Project Location: The project is located at 3512 Michelson Drive in the city of Irvine, California. (See Figure 1 )

County: Orange

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is proposing to install stationary Energy Storage Systems in the form of either Demand Response Energy Storage (DRES) or Demand Charge Management (DCM) systems at various existing District facilities. IRWD's Michelson Water Recycling Plant (MWRP), located at 3512 Michelson Drive, in the city of Irvine, is a proposed site.

The proposed project consists of the installation of a DRES 2,500 kilowatt, six-hour battery storage system and ancillary equipment, which will provide primary power to the MWRP facility during peak energy use and will also provide critical support to the electric grid in the local area. The DRES will involve charging batteries from the grid during off-peak hours and then discharging them during on-peak times, reducing stress on the grid and reducing the overall cost of power. During peak demand periods, the MWRP facility would draw power from the DRES system to offset its demand from the

regional electrical grid. The DRES system can provide up to six hours of continuous discharge power. IRWD will contract with a third party to install and operate the proposed DRES system.

The proposed 2,500 kilowatt DRES system will include a cluster of lithium ion battery units mounted on a concrete pad. Each battery block would have a height of approximately 86 inches and its footprint is approximately 165 feet by 37 feet. The DRES system will be located outside, within the existing MWRP facility, and would be compatible with the existing land use. The system would resemble typical utility scale infrastructure, such as electrical and cable boxes. Construction of the DRES system is expected to take no more than three weeks.

In addition to complying with all laws and regulations and securing any required permits, the Energy Storage Systems Project incorporates the environmental commitments from previous CEQA documentation applicable to MWRP to ensure that there would be no potentially significant impacts to the environment. In the event that tree removal becomes necessary, IRWD will conduct this work during non-nesting season (September 15 to February 15).

Name of Public Agency Approving  
and Carrying out this Project:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD)  
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

Contact Person: Jo Ann Corey, Engineering Technician III

Area Code 949

Phone 453-5326

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BY:  DEPI

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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BY: 

Reasons why project is exempt:

IRWD has made the determination that this Energy Storage Systems Project at MWRP is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by statute (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19). Categorical exemptions include minor alteration of existing facilities (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301) and new construction or conversion of small structures under CEQA Guideline Section 15303. Under Class 1, activities are exempt for the operation, 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 (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301). Class 3 consists of 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 (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15303). Additionally, under Class 3, installation of small new equipment and facilities for water, sewage, electrical, gas and other utility extensions are exempt.

The proposed Energy Storage Systems Project at MWRP is new construction of a small structure at an existing facility. The proposed Energy Storage Systems Project at MWRP will serve to provide the existing MWRP with an additional electrical power source during peak demand periods by installing a DRES system on the property. IRWD will comply with all laws and regulations, will secure any required permits, and the Project incorporates the environmental commitments from previous applicable CEQA documentation to ensure that there would be no potentially significant impacts and therefore, would meet the requirements of the Class 1 and Class 3 categorical exemption over CEQA.

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.

Jo Ann Corey, Engineering Technician III  
Staff Member Responsible for Preparation

Leslie Bankowski  
District Secretary

8/9/16

Date

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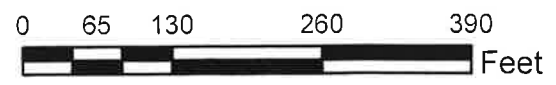
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**Figure 1: Michelson Water Recycling Plant (MWRP)**

**MAP FEATURES**

 Project Location



Date Prepared: 08/03/2016