



NO FEE

Exempt per Gov't Code 6103

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202285000264 10:15 am 04/04/22  
427 SC4A Z01

RETURN TO: Natalie Palacio 0.00 50.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00  
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

**FILED**

APR 04 2022

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: *[Signature]* DEPUTY

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT  
BY: *[Signature]* DEPUTY

APR 04 2022

POSTED

TO: Orange County Clerk-Recorder  
County Administration South  
601 N. Ross Street  
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: Irvine Desalter Project Shallow Groundwater Unit Facility Optimization for PFAS Treatment

Project Location: Located on the former MCAS El Toro, near Marine Way, Irvine, CA (See Figure1)

County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) owns and operates the existing Shallow Groundwater Unit (SGU) treatment facility located on the former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro near Marine Way, in Irvine, CA. The SGU is part of the Irvine Desalter Project, which is an on-going groundwater cleanup project being undertaken by IRWD, the Orange County Water District, and the Department of the Navy to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from 43 Department of the Navy extraction wells located within the boundary of the former MCAS El Toro site.

Water from the SGU is treated through air strippers, and the off-gas from the air strippers is treated through vapor phase granular-activated carbon (GAC) to remove the VOCs. Treated water from the SGU is pumped into the South Irvine Brine Line, which conveys the water to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) pump station, located at IRWD's Los Alisos Water Recycling Plant, where the treated water is pumped again to the SOCWA ocean outfall.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) compounds have emerged as contaminants of concern primarily due to human health impacts. Elevated levels of PFAS compounds have been detected in the water delivered to SGU. While the SGU treatment facility effectively removes VOC compounds from the water, it is unable to remove PFAS compounds.

This project will replace the existing treatment system with a new liquid phase GAC treatment system that is capable of effectively removing both VOCs and PFAS compounds from the water. The new treatment system will have substantially the same capacity as the treatment system being replaced. While the majority of the project will be constructed within the limits of the existing facility, a new potable water pipeline that will serve the site will be constructed from Marine way to the site.

Name of Public Agency Approving  
and Carrying out this Project:

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

Contact Person: Natalie Palacio, Water Resources Specialist

Area Code 949

Phone 453-5499

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)

Reasons why project is exempt:

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 consists of replacement of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. State Guideline §15303 provides for new, small facilities or structures, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

This project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as authorized under State Guidelines §15301, 15302 and 15303. The facility will have the same purpose and will replace the existing treatment system at the SGU with a

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new treatment system so that it can effectively remove both PFAS and VOCs.

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.

Natalie Palmiro  
Staff Member Responsible for Preparation

Leslie Bonkowski Leslie Bonkowski  
District Secretary

3/31/22  
Date

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BY: SGR DEPUTY

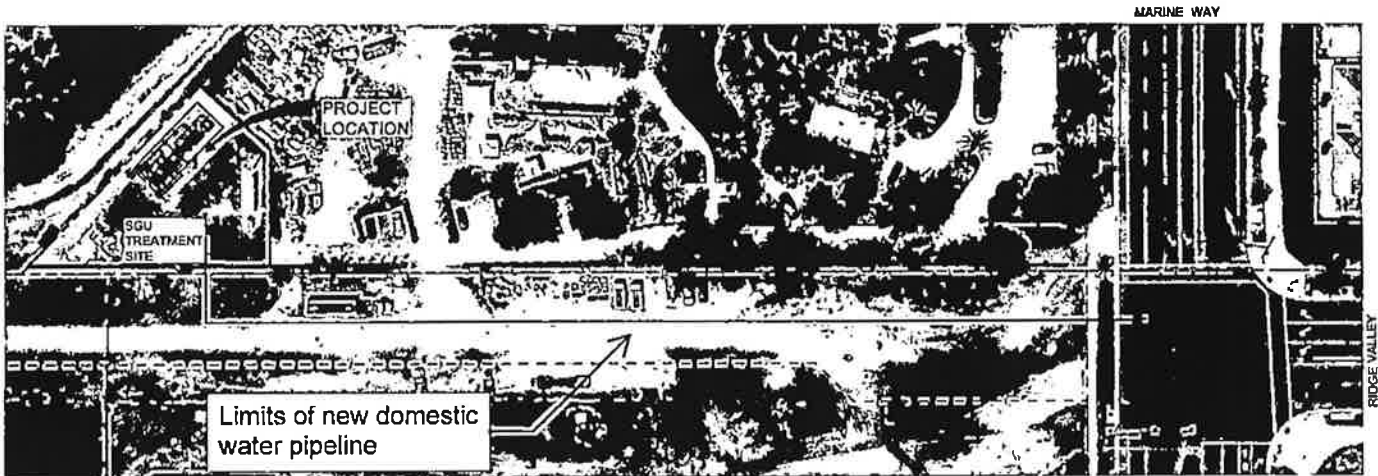
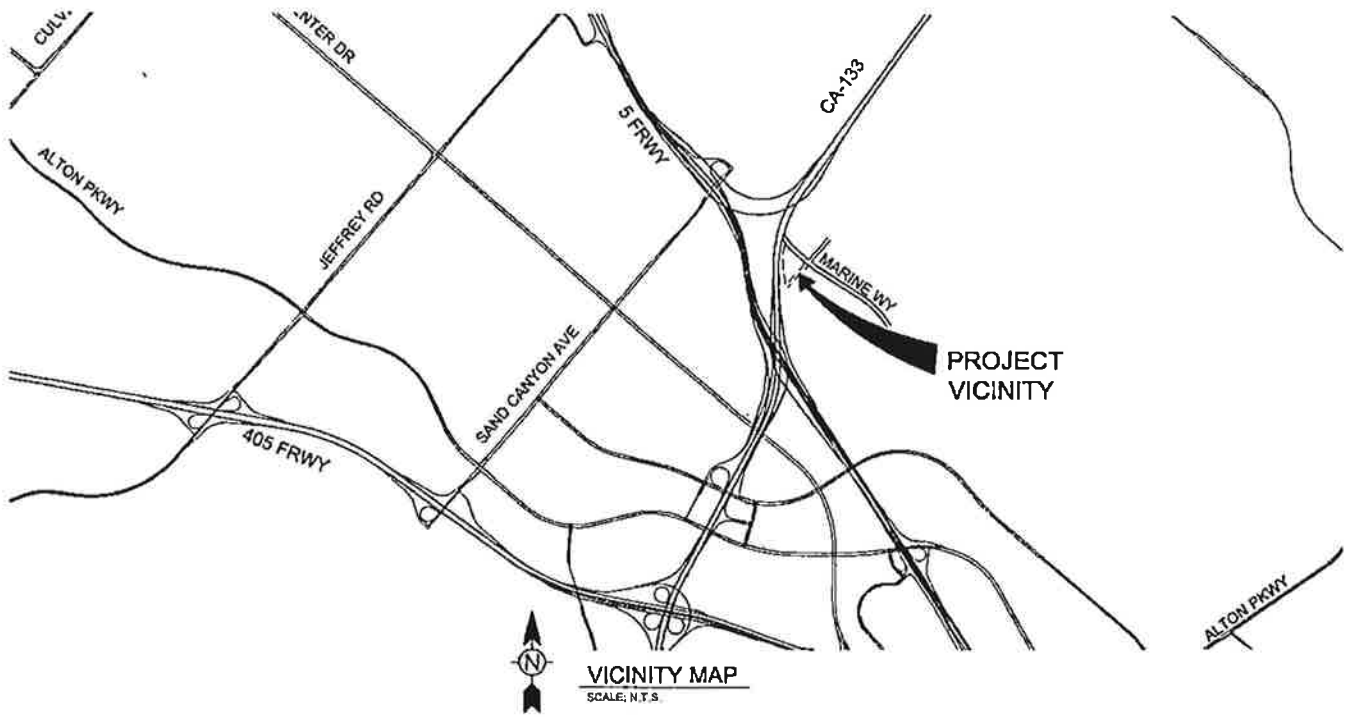
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Irvine Ranch Water District  
SGU PFAS Treatment System  
Figure 1



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