

Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder



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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

**POSTED**

**AUG 10 2016**

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:  DEPUTY

County Clerk's Filing Stamp

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
(State Guidelines 15062)

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

**FILED**

**AUG 10 2016**

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:  DEPUTY

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 – Deep Aquifer Treatment System

Project Location: The project is located northwest of the intersection of W. Alton Avenue and Bear Street along the Santa Ana Gardens Channel in the City of Santa Ana, 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 at the Deep Aquifer Treatment System (DATS) site, located in Santa Ana, California. The proposed system would be a Demand Response Energy Storage (DRES) system, which would involve charging batteries from the grid during off-peak hours then discharging them during on-peak times, reducing stress on the grid and reducing the overall cost of power. During peak demand periods, the DATS 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 would contract with a third party to install and operate the proposed DRES system.

The DRES system would be installed in an area along the property boundary and adjacent to the flood control channel, near other small-scale utility infrastructure, as shown in Figure 1. The DRES system would include lithium ion battery units and ancillary equipment, occupying a footprint of approximately 65 feet by 37 feet. The proposed 6,000-kWh system would include a cluster of ion lithium battery blocks mounted on a concrete pad. Each battery block would have a height of approximately 86 inches. The system would resemble typical utility scale infrastructure, such as electrical and cable boxes. In addition to the battery system, a connective buried conduit would be installed between the DRES system and the electrical tie-in at the Southern California Edison (SCE) transformer. The conduit alignment and the tie-in are similarly surrounded by utility infrastructure.

Construction of the DRES system and conduit would require minor grading activities to allow for installation of the concrete pad and shallow excavation for installation of the buried conduit. Installation of both components is expected to take up to three weeks. In accordance with the terms and conditions of the 1999 Lease Agreement between the City of Santa Ana and IRWD, IRWD will provide the City of Santa Ana with written notice of the proposed improvements for the Energy Storage Systems Project. The proposed system would be constructed once the City of Santa Ana provides written consent. Any conditions that the City requires regarding to the manner, method, design and construction of the proposed Energy Storage Systems Project would be implemented.


**Environmental Commitments:**


The following measures were adopted by the IRWD Board of Directors as part of the Final Environmental Impact Report Addendum for the Conjunctive Use Water Wells and Pipeline (August 1999) and apply to the proposed Energy Storage Systems Project. These measures would be implemented during construction and operation of the proposed Energy Storage Systems Project to ensure that no impacts to visual resources, ambient noise levels, public safety, or public utilities would occur.

**Visual Quality:** IRWD will design the site to comply with the City of Santa Ana guidelines. Specific guidelines to be addressed will include setbacks, landscaping, color, building style and lighting of the facility.

**Noise:**

- All construction activities will comply with the City of Santa Ana's allowable construction time limits (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday).
- Prior to commencement of construction, residences within 300 feet of the project site will be notified of the expected duration and times of construction.
- The water well and treatment facility will incorporate noise abatement measures to comply with the City of Santa Ana's noise ordinance criteria.

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**Public Safety:** In the event the grading, construction, or operation of proposed facilities will encounter hazardous waste, IRWD will ensure compliance with the State of California CCR Title 23 Health and Safety Regulations as managed by the Orange County Department of Environmental Health.

**Public Utilities:** IRWD will coordinate the proposed project design with responsible utilities to ensure that the project does not conflict with existing utilities and maintenance of those utilities.

In addition, IRWD would implement the following best management practices (BMPs) if necessary to ensure that impacts to biological impacts would not occur during construction and operation of the proposed project.

**Biological Resources:** If project construction occurs during the breeding season (generally February 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>), IRWD will retain a qualified biologist to conduct nest surveys in potential nesting habitat within and adjacent to the project site prior to commencement of construction or site preparation activities. If active nests are found, construction activity within 300 feet, or a distance otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, of an active nest should be delayed until the nest is no longer active.

**POSTED**

**AUG 10 2016**

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

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER  
DEPUTY

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:

BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

IRWD has made the determination that the proposed Energy Storage Systems Project at DATS 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 1530) 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 the 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 is new construction of a small structure at an existing facility. The proposed Energy Storage Systems Project will serve to provide the existing DATS facility with an additional electrical power source during peak demand periods by installing a DRES system on the property. The DRES system will occupy a footprint of approximately 2,400 square feet and will be located within a landscaped area near other small-scale utility infrastructure on the perimeter of the property. IRWD will implement all applicable environmental commitments during construction and operation to ensure that no impacts to biological resources, visual resources, ambient noise levels, public safety, or public utilities will occur.

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 Bonkowski  
District Secretary

8/9/16  
Date

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BY: [Signature]

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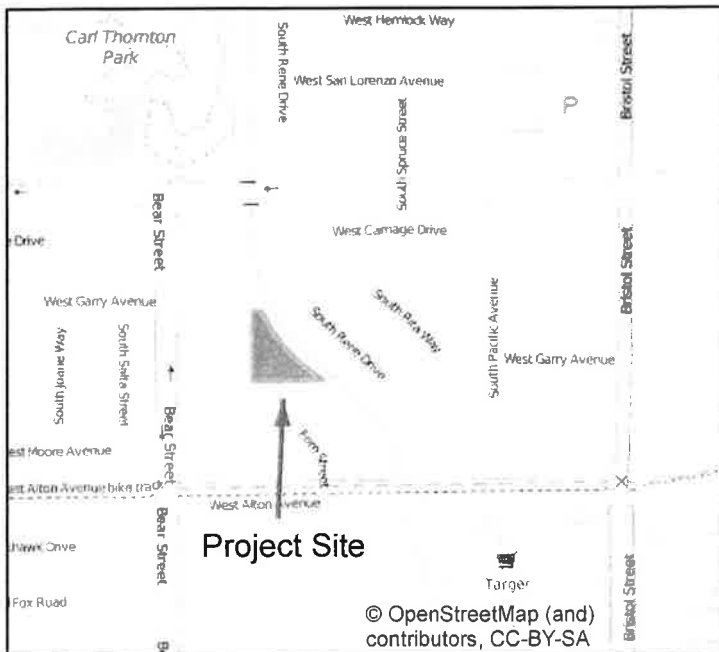
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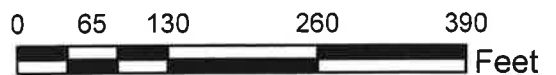
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**Figure 1: Deep Aquifer Treatment System (DATS)**

**MAP FEATURES**

 Project Location



Date Prepared: 08/03/2016