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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 07 2015

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: UM 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 07 2015

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: UM DEPUTY

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

Project Name: Syphon Reservoir Geotechnical Samplings and Testing
North of Portola Parkway, east of State Route 133, and west of Bee Canyon landfill access road in the City of Irvine, CA
Project Location: (see Figure 1)
County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) intends to conduct soil sampling and testing within the bottom of the Syphon Reservoir in order to collect geotechnical information and obtain a better understanding of the existing sediments and alluvium soils in the reservoir. The Syphon Reservoir was drained for maintenance to the outlet works system and is expected to remain empty until late 2015. An empty reservoir provides an opportunity to collect samples of the sediments and alluvium in the reservoir. The empty reservoir also provides an opportunity to measure the thickness of the sediments. This project will involve four tasks: sediment thickness measurements, baseline sediment screening, expanded sediment screening, and alluvium sampling, testing and thickness measurements.

The sediment thickness measurement will consist of obtaining data to allow calculations of the estimated volume of sediments that may require removal. The measurements will generally be obtained on a grid pattern and will be limited to the areas that can be accessed by foot. Baseline sediment screening will involve obtaining six representative

samples of sediment at different locations in the reservoir by hand, followed by performing a comprehensive suite of chemical and geotechnical index testing to each sample. Analytical testing will also be performed on three near-surface soil samples from areas that were once occupied by orchards. The analytical testing will determine what types of constituents of concern, if any, may be present within the sediments in the Reservoir. Sediment thickness will be up to five feet deep and a total of six locations throughout the lake bed will be selected. Expanded sediment screening will consist of up to five additional sampling and test pits' locations. The five test pit sampling will be performed at specific locations perpendicular to shorelines and near the edge, which will obtain information on the edge of the sediment layer and the sediment thickness in general. The alluvium investigation consists of boring through the alluvium in the reservoir, conducting geotechnical laboratory testing of the boring samples, and evaluating the results. Up to six borings through alluvium up to 35 feet deep are planned.

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

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:

This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the "categorical exemption rule." The geotechnical exploration program is categorically exempt under the "information collection rule, which is outlined in CEQA Guideline 15306 and states that activities are exempt that consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

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The geotechnical investigations are intended to provide IRWD with information about the Syphon Reservoir property and evaluate the existing sediments and alluvium present in the reservoir. As determined above, no serious or major disturbance to an

environmental resource will occur as a result of the testing program. Therefore, the proposed geotechnical investigations would meet the requirements of the "information collection" categorical exemption under 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 Bonkork
District Secretary

8/7/15
Date

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Figure 1 - Syphon Reservoir



Orange County
Clerk-Recorder's Office
Hugh Nguyen

630N Broadway Bldg. 12 Suite
101
Santa Ana, CA, 92701

County

Finalization: 20150000279259
8/7/15 10:17 am
329 SCA

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