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DEC 18 2023



HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER Y: ______DEPUTY

Irvine Ranch Water District Notice of Exemption

To:

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Orange County Clerk Recorder

County Administration South

601 N Ross Street Santa Ana, CA 92701

From:

Irvine Ranch Water District

P.O. box 57000

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue Irvine, CA 92619-7000 Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT TITLE: Santiago Creek Dam Phase III Geotechnical Investigation

PROJECT LOCATION - Specific: The Project is located at Santiago Creek Dam at the northwest end of Irvine Lake in unincorporated Orange County, California. It is south of State Route (SR) 261 and east of SR-241 and Santiago Canyon Road. Surrounding land use primarily consists of undeveloped open space. Irvine Regional Park is located northwest of SR-241; Limestone Canyon Regional Park Road; and Oak Canyon Park is located at the southeast end of Irvine Lake. The closed Santiago Canyon Landfill is located adjacent to the west of Irvine Lake. Residential development is located east of SR-241. See Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map.

PROJECT LOCATION - City/County: Unincorporated, Orange County, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and Serrano Water District (SWD) jointly own and operate the Santiago Creek Dam, which impounds Irvine Lake. Santiago Creek Dam is a 136-foot-high rolled earth embankment located on Santiago Creek in Orange County, CA. Santiago Creek Dam forms Irvine Lake, which provides water supply to surrounding communities for both agricultural and municipal use. The outlet works and reinforced concrete spillway at Santiago Creek Dam were constructed in 1932. The dam and the reservoir are under the regulatory jurisdiction of the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). IRWD and SWD are implementing a long-term plan to replace the dam spillway and the outlet tower. Geotechnical investigations of the site are needed to inform the upcoming design phase for those facilities.

IRWD and SWD propose to conduct 10 geotechnical exploratory test pits and 4 geophysical survey transects downstream of the existing dam. Each geotechnical test pit would be approximately 10 feet deep and would be 3 feet in diameter and the area work area would be approximately 20 feet by 20 feet in area. At the test pit locations, contractors will utilize a small rubber-tracked mounted excavator with an excavation bucket for digging and tracking over brush. Test pit locations that were selected based on the location of the proposed spillway and information needed. These locations may be modified by IRWD and SWD as needed in the field to avoid trees, sensitive vegetation, or jurisdictional areas, if needed. Samples of subsurface materials would be collected from the test pits for examination and laboratory testing. Following the completion of the test pit, each hole would be backfilled using the dirt spoils that came from the hole.

The four geophysical seismic refraction lines would be conducted at the site of the new spillway structure to evaluate bedrock and seismic conditions. The geophysical refraction lines would not require digging/trenching, but may require removal of minimal vegetation if it cannot be avoided to allow the laying of the cable. A minimum 10-inch width area is needed for the cable. The cable can be snaked around shrubs as needed. If any vegetation removal is needed, it would be performed using hand tools (e.g., loppers, pruners, shovels, and picks).

Permits will be acquired for the Geotechnical Investigation work for Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers.

PUBLIC AGENCY AI	PPROVING PROJE	ECT: Irvine Ranch Water District	
PROJECT APPLICA	VT: Irvine Ranc	Water District PHONE: (949) 45	3-5300
EXEMPT STATUS:	☑ Categorica	Exemption: Class 6, "Information Col	lection", Section 15306
	☐ Statutory E	xemption:	
	☐ Other:		
REASONS WHY PRO	DJECT IS EXEMP	r: The effects of the proposed project	t are Categorically Exempt from the
requirements to prepare	e additional environ	mental documentation per California	Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Guidelines, Section 153	06, Class 6 (Inform	ation Collection). The Class 6 Exemp	tion consists of basic data collection,
research, experimental n	nanagement, and reso	ource evaluation activities which do not	result in a serious or major disturbance
		strictly for information gathering purpo	
		proved, adopted, or funded. The propo	
		s which would require some degree of	
		n a larger project's design and is strict	
		VD and SWD that has not been approve	
		permits needed from the Regional Water	
		Vildlife and Army Corps of Engineers.	
		that it consists of basic data collection	
		ental resource. In addition, pursuant to S	
		ere are no unusual circumstances in resp	pect to the proposed project for which
staff would anticipate a			
STAFF CONTACT PL	RSON: Andy Uk, E	invironmental Compliance Analyst PH	IONE: 949-453-5326
Paga li	50011.	71.1.7	D 1 10 2022
Alsku V	DUILKANS	. District Secretary	December 18, 2023
Authorized S	ignature	Title	Date

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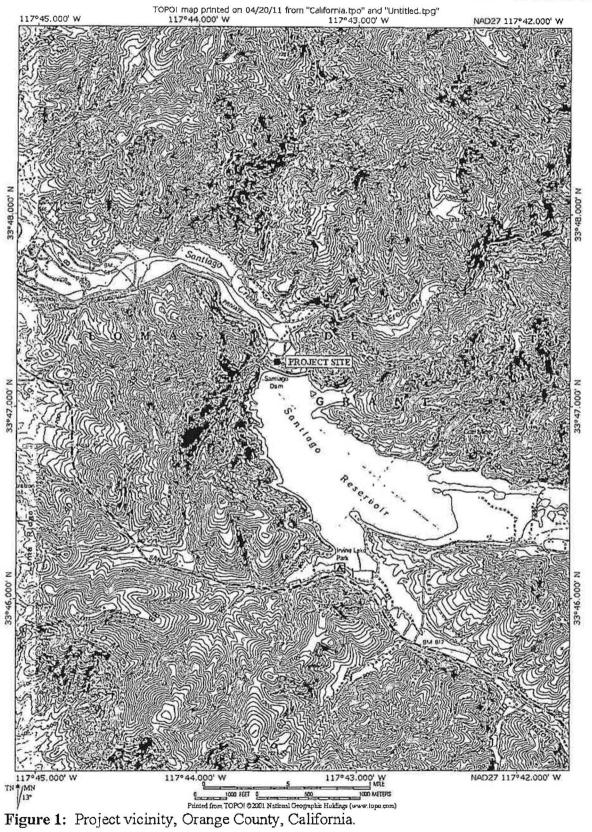


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map

Hugh Nguyen Orange County Clerk-Recorder 601 N. Ross Street Santa Ana, CA 92701

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Finalization: 20230000348213

12/18/23 11:36 am

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DOC#	202385001	119		50.00
Time	Recorded	11:36	am	

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Payment	Type	Amount

NO FEE 50.00 Amount Due 0.00

THANK YOU
PLEASE RETAIN THIS RECEIPT
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Recorded in Official Records, Orange County Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder

* \$ R O O 1 4 7 O 5 6 1 9 \$ *

NO FEE

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THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk-Recorder

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

Santiago Creek Dam Phase III Geotechnical Investigation

Check Document being Flied.
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
Notice of Exemption (NOE)
Other (Please fill in type):

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DEC 18 2023

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: ______DEPUTY

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ORANGE

COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ON December 18, 2023

Posted for 30 days

DEPUTY Robert Uriostegui

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.