

MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Mission Springs Water District
66575 Second Street
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

and

Riverside County, County Clerk
2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

Project Title: MSWD Solar PPA Project for Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Project Location: The proposed Project is located within the District's Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) site. The project is located at 14601 Verbena Drive, Desert Hot Springs, CA. The project area is located at the following coordinates: 33°56'30.00"N, 116°29'40.84"W.

Project Location - City: City of Desert Hot Springs

Project Location - County: Riverside County

**Description of Nature, Purpose,
and Beneficiaries of the Project:** Mission Springs Water District (MSWD or District)

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Mission Springs Water District

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sections 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sections 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sections 21080(b)(4); 15269(b))
- ☐ Statutory (Section 15282)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption (Section 15303 [d & e])

Reasons why project is exempt: The State CEQA Guidelines provide a series of categorical exemptions for projects that have been deemed to have minimal impacts on the environment. The proposed project would install ground mounted solar (also termed photovoltaic) systems at the existing Horton WWTP site. The photovoltaic system would be sized at 387.2 kilowatts (kW)(the system's Direct Current [DC] system rating). This system will be interconnected to the electrical utility grid per the requirements of the utility company and all applicable local, state, and federal codes. The photovoltaic installation at this property would include the installation of 640 modules. The Horton WWTP solar system will include the installation of 6 Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) 60 kW inverters, with an output of 360 kW Alternating Current (AC). The DC design will be based on a 1,500 Volt DC that would accommodate the 2% average highest temperature (44° Celsius) and the extreme minimum (3° Celsius). The project would also install transmission line to the existing line side tap in to the main service panel within the project site. Based on an analysis of the proposed project, the proposed project would consist of solar installation, which is an extension of the utilities within the Horton WWTP site, and furthermore, would be classified as accessory/appurtenant structures that can be implemented without significant adverse impact. Categorical Exemption Class 3, 15303(d) exempts "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures... (d) Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction," while Class 3, 15303(e) exempts "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures... Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences," each of which would cover the installation of the photovoltaic system (solar) as part of the Project. The exceptions to the issuance of Categorical Exemptions have been evaluated for the proposed project, and the proposed project has been determined not to have a potential to cause significant

adverse environmental effects as a result of any of the exceptions. Therefore, this proposed action is not forecast to cause any potential for significant adverse environmental impacts and qualifies with the requirements for Class 3 Categorical Exemption 15303(d) and (e).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Macy **Telephone:** (760) 329-6448

Signature: _____ **Title:** General Manager **Date:** _____