

COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO

DEC 14 2022

CLERK OF THE BOARD

DATE FILED & POSTED

Posted On: 12/14/22

Removed On: 1/26/23

Receipt No: 36-1214202

-850

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: San Bernardino County  
Clerk of the Board  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

From: Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency  
121 Palomino Drive  
P.O. Box 517  
Big Bear City, CA 92314

Project Title: Replenish Big Bear Piloting Study Project

Project Location: The project will be located within the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which is located at 121 Palomino Drive in Big Bear City, California, an unincorporated area in San Bernardino County in the San Bernardino Mountains of southern California.

Project Location - City: Big Bear City (Unincorporated San Bernardino County)

Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The Replenish Big Bear Piloting Study Project is intended to demonstrate process performance of the proposed treatment process for the upgraded BBARWA WWTP, which includes upflow denitrification, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet disinfection, advanced oxidation with sodium hypochlorite, and brine minimization. Piloting will involve rented skid- and trailer-mounted treatment processes that will be operated at the existing WWTP to treat approximately 1% of the BBARWA WWTP effluent flow, or 20 gallons per minute. The piloting system equipment will be located within an existing building or within existing paved areas of the WWTP site under temporary shade and weather structures. All of the equipment and utility connections would be temporary and will utilize process water, electrical power, and utility water from the existing WWTP system. The Piloting Study is anticipated to occur from January 2023 through the summer of 2023, with the potential to extend through October 2023, if additional data is needed. The pilot system is expected to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the duration of the pilot period, aside from any unanticipated operational interruptions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Statutory Exemption (Section 15262)
- Categorical Exemption (Section 15306)

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed Piloting Study is statutorily exempt from substantive CEQA review as it has been determined to have no potential to cause significant adverse effects on the environment. The proposed project meets the criteria for a the Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption (identified in CEQA Section 15262), which consists of "A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities." The proposed project involves a pilot study for planning purposes, involving a future action that has not yet been approved by the BBARWA Governing Board (the Replenish Big Bear Program), and thus has been determined to qualify for the Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption (identified in Section 15262). Additionally, the Piloting Study meets the criteria for a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (15306). Class 6 consists of "Information Collection," outlined under Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Class 6 exemptions 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." The Class 6 Criteria that is met by this project is that the proposed project is a pilot study that would consist of data collection that would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and the data collected from the pilot study would be used as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The Piloting Study has been evaluated against the Categorical Exemption exceptions, and does not fall under any exception based on the lack of historical, archaeological, and scenic resources within the site, and that no hazardous waste sites are located in the vicinity of the project, and no cumulative or significant effects are anticipated to occur as a result of project implementation. The project activities have been determined not to have a potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, this proposed project is not forecast to cause any potential for significant adverse environmental impacts and qualifies with the requirements for a Statutory Exemption (15262) and a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (15306).

**Lead Agency**

Contact Person: David Lawrence

Telephone: 909-584-4018

Signature: 

Title: General Manager

Date: 12/14/22

COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO

DEC 14 2022

CLERK OF THE BOARD



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/22) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 36 — 12142022 — 850  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)  
 N/A

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency		LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 12142022
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING San Bernardino		DOCUMENT NUMBER	
PROJECT TITLE			

Replenish Big Bear Piloting Study Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (909) 584-4018
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 121 Palomino Drive P.O. Box 517	CITY Big Bear City	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92314

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency     School District     Other Special District     State Agency     Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- |   |            |    |      |
|---|------------|----|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)  | \$3,539.25 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)                                   | \$2,548.00 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$1,203.25 | \$ | 0.00 |

- Exempt from fee  
 Notice of Exemption (attach)  
 CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- |   |          |    |       |
|---|----------|----|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ | 0.00  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee   |          | \$ | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |          | \$ |       |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash     Credit     Check     Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Jennifer Luna, Deputy Clerk
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# Replenish Big Bear Piloting Study Project

## Summary

<b>SCH Number</b>	2022120335
<b>Public Agency</b>	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA)
<b>Document Title</b>	Replenish Big Bear Piloting Study Project
<b>Document Type</b>	NOE - Notice of Exemption
<b>Received</b>	12/14/2022
<b>Posted</b>	12/14/2022
<b>Document Description</b>	<p>The Replenish Big Bear Piloting Study Project is intended to demonstrate process performance of the proposed treatment process for the upgraded BBAWRA WWTP, which includes upflow denitrification, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet disinfection, advanced oxidation with sodium hypochlorite, and brine minimization. Piloting will involve rented skid- and trailer-mounted treatment processes that will be operated at the existing WWTP to treat approximately 1% of the BBARWA WWTP effluent flow, or 20 gallons per minute. The piloting system equipment will be located within an existing building or within existing paved areas of the WWTP site under temporary shade and weather structures. All of the equipment and utility connections would be temporary and will utilize process water, electrical power, and utility water from the existing WWTP system. The Piloting Study is anticipated to occur from January 2023 through the summer of 2023, with the potential to extend through October 2023, if additional data is needed. The pilot system is expected to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the duration of the pilot period, aside from any unanticipated operational interruptions.</p>

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## Contact Information

<b>Name</b>	Bridgette Burton
<b>Agency Name</b>	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA)
<b>Job Title</b>	Management Analyst/Board Secretary
<b>Contact Types</b>	Lead/Public Agency
<b>Address</b>	P.O. Box 517 121 Palomino Drive Big Bear City, CA 92314
<b>Phone</b>	(909) 584-4524
<b>Email</b>	bburton@bbarwa.org

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## Location

<b>Cities</b>	Big Bear City
<b>Counties</b>	San Bernardino
<b>Regions</b>	Southern California
<b>Cross Streets</b>	located within WWTP at 121 Palomino Drive
<b>Zip</b>	92314

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## Notice of Exemption

<b>Exempt Status</b>	Categorical Exemption
<b>Type, Section or Code</b>	15306
<b>Reasons for Exemption</b>	<p>The proposed Piloting Study is statutorily exempt from substantive CEQA review as it has been determined to have no potential to cause significant adverse effects on the environment. The proposed project meets the criteria for a Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption (identified in CEQA Section 15262), which consists of “A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.” The proposed project involves a pilot study for planning purposes, involving a future action that has not yet been approved by the BBARWA Board of Directors (the Replenish Big Bear Program), and thus has been determined to qualify for the Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption (identified in Section 15262). Additionally, the Piloting Study meets the criteria for a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (15306). Class 6 consists of “Information Collection,” outlined under Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Class 6 exemptions 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.” The Class 6 Criteria that is met by this project is that the proposed project is a pilot study that would consist of data collection that would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and the data collected from the pilot study would be used as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The Piloting Study has been evaluated against the Categorical Exemption exceptions and does not fall under any exception based on the lack of historical, archaeological, and scenic resources within the site, and that no hazardous waste sites are located in the vicinity of the project, and no cumulative or significant effects are anticipated to occur as a result of project implementation. The project activities have been determined not to have a potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, this proposed project is not forecast to cause any potential for significant adverse environmental impacts and qualifies with the requirements for a Statutory Exemption (15262) and a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (15306).</p>
<b>Exempt Status</b>	Statutory Exemption

**Type, Section or Code**

15262

**Reasons for Exemption**

The proposed Piloting Study is statutorily exempt from substantive CEQA review as it has been determined to have no potential to cause significant adverse effects on the environment. The proposed project meets the criteria for a Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption (identified in CEQA Section 15262), which consists of “A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.” The proposed project involves a pilot study for planning purposes, involving a future action that has not yet been approved by the BBARWA Board of Directors (the Replenish Big Bear Program), and thus has been determined to qualify for the Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption (identified in Section 15262). Additionally, the Piloting Study meets the criteria for a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (15306). Class 6 consists of “Information Collection,” outlined under Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Class 6 exemptions 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.” The Class 6 Criteria that is met by this project is that the proposed project is a pilot study that would consist of data collection that would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and the data collected from the pilot study would be used as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The Piloting Study has been evaluated against the Categorical Exemption exceptions and does not fall under any exception based on the lack of historical, archaeological, and scenic resources within the site, and that no hazardous waste sites are located in the vicinity of the project, and no cumulative or significant effects are anticipated to occur as a result of project implementation. The project activities have been determined not to have a potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, this proposed project is not forecast to cause any potential for significant adverse environmental impacts and qualifies with the requirements for a Statutory Exemption (15262) and a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (15306).

**County Clerk**

San Bernardino

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## Attachments

**Notice of Exemption**

BWA-181 conformed-stamped NOE - optimized

PDF

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**Disclaimer:** The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) accepts no responsibility for the content or accessibility of these documents. To obtain an attachment in a different format, please contact the lead agency at the contact information listed above. You may also contact the OPR via email at [state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov) or via phone at [\(916\) 445-0613](tel:9164450613). For more information, please visit [OPR’s Accessibility Site](#).