



Inyo County
163 May Street
Bishop, CA 93514

FILED

OCT 19 2011

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BY  DEPUTY

Notice of Exemption - Inyo County

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Inyo
P.O. Drawer F
Independence, CA 93526

From: (Public Agency) Inyo County
163 May Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Owens Lake Groundwater Evaluation Project Aquifer Testing

Project Location - Specific: North and east side of Owens Lake playa

Project Location - City: Lone Pine, CA

Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Four existing wells will be used for aquifer testing over a period of four months. Two of the wells, Shallow River Site and Deep River Site, are pump equipped and will be pumped at rates of 1,950 and 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm) respectively. Two other wells, Fault Test and South FIP, are flowing wells and will be allowed to flow under artesian conditions at a rate of 250 gpm. Each of these wells has been tested previously for longer periods of time, with no negative or adverse effects. Each well will discharge water for one month. Changes in hydraulic head will be monitored in a network of monitoring wells.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Inyo County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Inyo County

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical (Sec. 21084; 15306);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

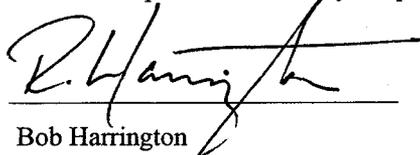
Reasons why project is exempt: The purpose of the project is data collection, information gathering, and resource evaluation. The project involves using existing wells that have been operated at higher pumping rates and longer durations with no negative effects. None of the exceptions specified by CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency: Inyo County
Contact Person: Bob Harrington

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 878-0001

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: 
Bob Harrington

Date: 10/19/2011

11-00042