



Fact Sheet

Senate Bill 974 Public Resources Code § 21080.47 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption

Overview

This bill exempts certain projects that consist solely of the installation, repair, or reconstruction of water infrastructure from CEQA and is in effect from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2028.

The project must primarily benefit a small disadvantaged community (Small DAC) water system*:

- Serves $\leq 3,300$ service connections or $\leq 10,000$ people
- Median household income (MHI) $< 80\%$ statewide MHI

* Includes state small water systems and schools that serve a Small DAC

What drinking water projects may be eligible?

- Groundwater wells (max flow rate of 250 gpm)
- Treatment facilities (max footprint $< 2,500$ ft²)
- Storage tanks (max capacity of 250,000 gal)
- Booster pumps and hydropneumatics tanks
- Pipelines in road right-of-way (max length of less than one mile or seven miles if required to address a threatened or current drinking water violation)
- Water service lines
- Minor drinking water system appurtenances, including, but not limited to system and service meters, fire hydrants, water quality sampling stations, valves, air releases and vacuum break valves, emergency generators or backflow generators, backflow prevention devices, and appurtenance enclosures

Additional Requirements:

- Lead agency must contact the State Water Board to determine whether claiming the exemption will affect the ability of receiving federal financial assistance or federally capitalized financial assistance prior to filing a notice of exemption
- Project must fully mitigate all construction impacts and not affect wetlands or sensitive habitat
- Labor requirements including the use of a “skilled and trained workforce” as defined in Public Contract Code § 2600 et seq.

For additional questions please contact DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov