

# Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project

## Summary

**SCH Number**

2025040059

**Public Agency**

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA)

**Document Title**

Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project

**Document Type**

NOE - Notice of Exemption

**Received**

4/1/2025

**Posted**

4/1/2025

**Document Description**

On March 26, 2025, the BBARWA Board of Directors approved the Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project (Project).

The Cushenberry Pipeline (Pipeline) originates at the BBARWA Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on the southern edge of Baldwin Lake and transports up to about 2,000 acre-feet per year of treated effluent to a farm located south of State Highway 247 and east of Camp Rock Road in Lucerne Valley. A small ephemeral stream channel, which crosses this Pipeline alignment adjacent to the Dump Access Road, has been eroding the Pipeline alignment. This Pipeline alignment is also shared with Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest).

Recently the stream bed erosion has encroached on the Pipeline alignment to the point that a rupture of the line will likely occur during a major storm event and cause the release of treated effluent into the environment. Both BBARWA and Southwest engineers have recommended that repairs be made immediately to the exposed pipelines to eliminate the erosion rupture exposure. BBARWA's condition assessment determined that the Pipeline's condition is severely exposed to damage and requires immediate attention to prevent a failure and release of treated effluent into the affected watershed, which contributes runoff to Grapevine Creek approximately 0.75 mile to the north. From that confluence, Grapevine Creek flows east approximately 2.5 miles before dissipating into the lower desert.

## Contact Information

**Name**

David Lawrence

**Agency Name**

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA)

**Job Title**

General Manager

**Contact Types**

Lead/Public Agency

**Address**

121 Palomino Drive / PO Box 517  
Big Bear City, CA 92314

**Phone**

(909) 584-4018

**Email**

dlawrence@bbarwa.org

## Location

**Coordinates**

34°18'47.63"N 116°48'46.31"W

**Cities**

Big Bear City

**Counties**

San Bernardino

**Regions**

Southern California

**Total Acres**

<1

**State Highways**

SR 18

## Notice of Exemption

**Exempt Status**

Statutory Exemption

**Type, Section or Code**

15269(b)

**Reasons for Exemption**

The proposed Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §15269(b) (Emergency Projects), which exempts projects that involve emergency

repairs to publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety or welfare. Here, the Project involves emergency repairs to an exposed segment of the Sewer Discharge Pipeline to Lucerne Valley, a pipeline that currently transports up to about 2,000 acre-feet per year of treated effluent from Big Bear to Lucerne Valley. The pipeline's condition, caused by an encroaching stream bed, is severely exposed to damage and requires immediate attention to prevent a failure and release of treated effluent into the affected watershed, which contributes runoff to Grapevine Creek approximately 0.75 mile to the north. Alternatively, the proposed Project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1). The Class 1 exemption allows, in part, for the repair of existing public mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of former use. This includes the rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety. Here, the Project proposes repairs to the exposed pipeline segment, which are necessary to meet current standards of public health and safety and avoid any future risk. Finally, none of the "exceptions" to the categorical exemptions apply under State CEQA Guidelines §: 15300.2.

#### **Exempt Status**

Categorical Exemption

#### **Type, Section or Code**

CE 15301

#### **Reasons for Exemption**

The proposed Project is statutorily exempt from the : California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to : State CEQA Guidelines, §15269(b) (Emergency Projects), : which exempts projects that involve emergency repairs to ; publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain ; service essential to public health, safety or welfare. Here, ; the Project involves emergency repairs to an exposed • segment of the Sewer Discharge Pipeline to Lucerne : Valley, a pipeline that currently transports up to about : 2,000 acre-feet per year of treated effluent from Big Bear : to Lucerne Valley. The pipeline's condition, caused by an : encroaching stream bed, is severely exposed to damage ; and requires immediate attention to prevent a failure and : release of treated effluent into the affected watershed, : which contributes runoff to Grapevine Creek ; approximately 0.75 mile to the north. : Alternatively, the proposed Project is categorically exempt : from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA : Guidelines, § 15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1 ). The : Class I exemption allows, in part, for the repair of existing : public mechanical equipment that will result in negligible : or no expansion of fonner use. This includes the ; rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged mechanical ; equipment to meet current standards of public health and : safety. Here, the Project proposes repairs to the exposed , pipeline segment, which are necessary to meet current : standards of public health and safety and avoid any future : risk. ' : Finally, none of the "exceptions" to the categorical ; exemp-tions apply under State CEQA Guidelines § : 15300.2

#### **County Clerk**

San Bernardino

## Attachments

#### **Notice of Exemption**

BWA-206 NOE Filed County (4125) PDF 3077 K

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Site.



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print** **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 36 — 04012025 — 207  
 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 04012025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING San Bernardino	DOCUMENT NUMBER -	

PROJECT TITLE

**Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project**

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL -	PHONE NUMBER (909)584-4018
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 121 Palomino Dr., PO 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)  | \$4,123.50 | \$ | 0.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)   | \$2,968.75 | \$ | 0.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW         | \$1,401.75 | \$ | 0.00  |
| <br>  |            |    |       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee   |            |    |       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)  |            |    |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  |            |    |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)                   |            |    |       |
| <hr/>   |            |    |       |
| <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 X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Alicia Meza, Deputy Clerk
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CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2025 APR -1 PM 1:30

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CALIFORNIA

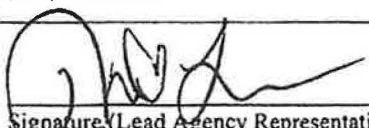
<p>TO: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of San Bernardino 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Fl. San Bernardino, CA 92415</p> <p>Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation State Clearinghouse P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency P.O. Box 517 121 Palomino Dr. Big Bear City, CA 92314 Phone: (909) 584-4018</p>
<p>Project Title:</p>	<p>Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project</p>
<p>Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):</p>	<p>Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA) service area (map of location where projects will occur is attached)</p>
<p>a) Project Location – City:</p>	<p>Big Bear City</p>
<p>Project Location – County:</p>	<p>County of San Bernardino</p>
<p>Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:</p> <p><b>DATE FILED &amp; POSTED</b> Posted On: <u>04-01-25</u> Removed On: <u>05-07-25</u> Receipt No: <u>36-04012025-207</u></p>	<p>On March 26, 2025, the BBARWA Board of Directors approved the Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project (Project).</p> <p>The Cushenberry Pipeline (Pipeline) originates at the BBARWA Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on the southern edge of Baldwin Lake and transports up to about 2,000 acre-feet per year of treated effluent to a farm located south of State Highway 247 and east of Camp Rock Road in Lucerne Valley. A small ephemeral stream channel, which crosses this Pipeline alignment adjacent to the Dump Access Road, has been eroding the Pipeline alignment. This Pipeline alignment is also shared with Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest).</p> <p>Recently the stream bed erosion has encroached on the Pipeline alignment to the point that a rupture of the line will likely occur during a major storm event and cause the release of treated effluent into the environment. Both BBARWA and Southwest engineers have recommended that repairs be made immediately to the exposed pipelines to eliminate the erosion rupture exposure. BBARWA's condition assessment determined that the Pipeline's condition is severely exposed to damage and requires immediate attention to prevent a failure and release of treated effluent into the affected watershed, which contributes runoff to Grapevine Creek approximately 0.75 mile to the north. From that confluence, Grapevine Creek flows east approximately 2.5 miles before dissipating into the lower desert..</p>
<p>Name of Public Agency approving project:</p>	<p>Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency</p>
<p>Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that</p>	<p>Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency P.O. Box 517</p>

CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2025 APR 1 PM 1:35

receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	121 Palomino Dr. Big Bear City, CA 92314 Phone: (909) 584-4018
Exempt status: (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15301
<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	
Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The proposed Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §15269(b) (Emergency Projects), which exempts projects that involve emergency repairs to publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety or welfare. Here, the Project involves emergency repairs to an exposed segment of the Sewer Discharge Pipeline to Lucerne Valley, a pipeline that currently transports up to about 2,000 acre-feet per year of treated effluent from Big Bear to Lucerne Valley. The pipeline's condition, caused by an encroaching stream bed, is severely exposed to damage and requires immediate attention to prevent a failure and release of treated effluent into the affected watershed, which contributes runoff to Grapevine Creek approximately 0.75 mile to the north.</p> <p>Alternatively, the proposed Project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1). The Class 1 exemption allows, in part, for the repair of existing public mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of former use. This includes the rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety. Here, the Project proposes repairs to the exposed pipeline segment, which are necessary to meet current standards of public health and safety and avoid any future risk.</p> <p>Finally, none of the "exceptions" to the categorical exemptions apply under State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2.</p>
Contact Person:	David Lawrence
Telephone:	(909) 584-4018

Date Received for Filing: 4/1/25

  
Signature (Lead Agency Representative)/Title  
David Lawrence, General Manager

(Clerk Stamp Here)

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2025 APR -1 PM 1:36  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

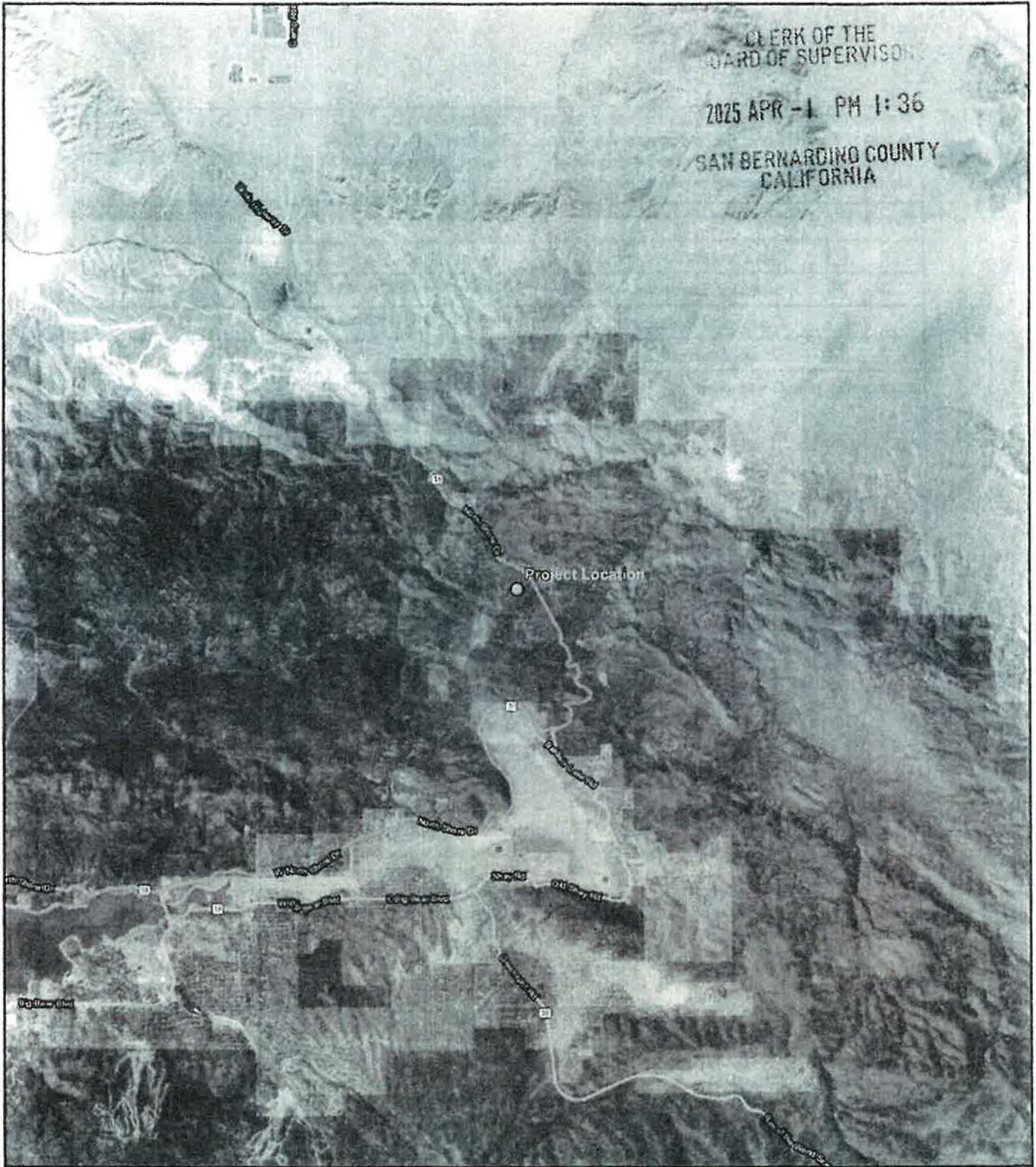


Figure 1: Project Overview Map

Cactus Flats Outfall Line Repair Project

- Project Location
- U.S. Forest Service

