

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Placer

3715 Atherton Road, Suite #1

Rocklin, CA 95765

From: (Public Agency): North Tahoe Public Utility District
PO Box 139

Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

(Address)

Project Title: Water Right Permit Applications A024257, A023475, A023727

Project Applicant: North Tahoe Public Utility District

Project Location - Specific:

See Attachment 1.

Project Location - City: Tahoe Vista Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See Attachment 1.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: North Tahoe Public Utility District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: North Tahoe Public Utility District

Exempt Status: (check one):

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines § 15301

☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(5); CEQA Guidelines § 15270(a)

Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment 1.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Bradley A. Johnson, P.E.

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 546-4212

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:  Date: 8/12/2026 Title: General Manager/CEO

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment 1

To Notice of Exemption

For Water Right Applications A024257, A023475, and A023727

Project Location

The North Tahoe Public Utility District (“District”) is a public utility district located in and around Tahoe Vista, California, within Placer County. The District owns and operates an existing municipal water system, including water rights, water treatment facilities, groundwater wells, storage facilities, and a distribution system, to provide potable water to customers within its service area.

As described in the District’s adopted 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (“UWMP”), the District’s service area is substantially built out and future development is expected to consist of primarily of infill redevelopment within existing developed areas, subject to land use controls of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The proposed action relates solely to the District’s existing municipal water system and pending water right applications. The existing place of use associated with the applications is depicted on the map attached as Exhibit A.

The proposed point of diversion is Lake Tahoe Intake in the Agate Bay: North 2,218,088 feet and East 7,114,163 feet by California Coordinate System, Zone 2, North American Datum 1983, located within the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 14, Township 16 North, Range 17 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of the District’s approval of a Notice of Exemption (“NOE”) under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) in connection with the District’s pending water right applications before the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”), including continued pursuit of Application A024257 and cancellation of Applications A023475 and A023727. Although the State Water Board will act on the pending application, its action occurs after the District’s discretionary decision to pursue the application and does not alter the District’s responsibility to evaluate the environmental consequences of its own discretionary action.

The purpose of the proposed action is to facilitate the continued processing of the District’s pending water right application to secure sufficient long-term water right authority for operation of the District’s existing municipal water system consistent with the Truckee River Operating Agreement. It does not authorize or require construction of new facilities, modification of existing facilities, or changes to the District’s existing operations.

The beneficiaries of the proposed action are the District and its existing and future customers, who rely on the District’s municipal water system for a reliable and long-term potable water supply.

Reasons Why the Project Is Exempt

Following a duly noticed public hearing, the District determined that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA or, alternatively, is exempt from CEQA on the following independent grounds:

- Class 1 Categorical Exemption (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15301). The proposed action involves the continued operation and licensing of the District's existing municipal water system and diversion facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use.
- Projects Disapproved or Rejected (Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(5); 14 Cal Code Regs. § 15270(a)). The proposed cancellation of Water Right Applications A023475 and A023727 is exempt because CEQA does not apply to projects that the public agency rejects or disapproves.

Class 1 Exemption

The proposed action concerns the continued operation of the District's existing municipal water system and diversion facilities. It does not authorize construction of new facilities, physical modifications to existing facilities, expansion of existing diversion infrastructure, or changes in the physical operation of those facilities. The District will continue to operate its existing municipal water system, including its existing National Avenue Intake, using its existing treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities.

Application A024257 seeks to secure sufficient long-term water right authority for the continued operation of the District's existing municipal water system over the requested period for completion of beneficial use. Although the requested permit would authorize a greater quantity of water than the District is presently authorized to divert, approval of the proposed action does not itself authorize or require any increase in actual water diversions. Rather, the proposed action concerns the legal authority under which the District may continue operating its existing municipal water system.

The District's adopted 2025 UWMP concludes that existing municipal water facilities are adequate to satisfy projected demand through 2050 and identifies no need to construct additional water supply facilities or modify the District's existing diversion infrastructure during that period. Consistent with those adopted planning assumptions, approval of the proposed action is not expected to expand the District's current operational use of its existing diversion facilities.

Any future increase in diversions would depend on future customer demand, operational decisions by the District, hydrologic conditions, continued compliance with the Truckee River Operating Agreement, satisfaction of permit conditions, and compliance with any other applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Those future contingencies are independent of the proposed Board action and do not alter the District's current operation of its existing municipal water system.

Accordingly, the proposed action involves the continued licensing and operation of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use and therefore falls within the Class 1 categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines § 15301.

The District further determined that none of the exceptions contained in CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2 apply. The proposed action concerns continued licensing and operation of the District's existing municipal water system and does not authorize construction of new facilities, physical modification of existing facilities, or expansion of the operational use of those facilities. The District will continue operating the same diversion, treatment, groundwater wells, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities in substantially the same manner as they operate today. Accordingly, the proposed action does not present unusual circumstances, does not contribute to cumulative impacts, does not affect scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway, does not occur on a hazardous waste site, and does not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources.

Cancellation of Applications A023475 and A023727

Application A024257, as amended by the State Water Resources Control Board's approval of the District's 2024 Petition for Change, encompasses the diversion authority previously sought through Applications A023475 and A023727. Accordingly, the District no longer requires Applications A023475 and A023727 to achieve its long-term municipal water supply objectives and intends to request that the State Water Board cancel those applications.

The Board's authorization to discontinue pursuit of Applications A023475 and A023727 constitutes rejection or disapproval of those applications. Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080(b)(5) and CEQA Guidelines § 15270(a), CEQA does not apply to projects that a public agency rejects or disapproves. Accordingly, the proposed cancellation of Applications A023475 and A023727 is independently exempt from CEQA.