



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK  
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

**FILED**  
Mar 26, 2026 08:11 AM  
JORDAN Z. MARKS  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK  
File # 2026-000287  
State Receipt # 37032620260265

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PFAS REMOVAL TREATMENT SYSTEM PROJECT

Check Document being Filed:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type):

**FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY CLERK ON** March 26, 2026  
**Posted** March 26, 2026 **Removed** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Returned to agency on** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEPUTY** \_\_\_\_\_

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

<p>TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Clearinghouse          P. O. Box 3044, Room 113          Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Name: <b>Sweetwater Authority</b>          (Public Agency) Address: <b>505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910</b>          Telephone: <b>619-420-1413</b></p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors          or          County Clerk (Include County name)          Address: <b>1600 Pacific Hwy #260, San Diego, CA 92101</b></p>	

<p>1. Project Title:</p>	<p><b>Planning and Design of PFAS Removal Treatment System Project</b></p>
<p>2. Project Applicant (include address, telephone number and email address):</p>	<p><b>Sweetwater Authority</b>  <b>505 Garrette Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910</b>  <b>619-409-6823, imarquez@sweetwater.org</b>  <b>ATTN: Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager</b></p>
<p>3. 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><b>100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977.</b>  <b>Project would occur at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant.</b></p>
<p>4. (a) Project Location – City: <b>Unincorporated community of Spring Valley</b></p>	<p>(b) Project Location – County: <b>San Diego</b></p>
<p>5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:</p>	<p><b>The Project consists of preparing a comprehensive technical evaluation and conducting a pilot-scale assessment to support future decisions regarding PFAS treatment at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant (Perdue WTP). The purpose of the Project is to identify feasible PFAS treatment technologies, validate their performance through pilot testing, and develop the planning-level and design documentation necessary to advance future PFAS treatment improvements.</b></p> <p><b>Project activities include a desktop review of historical operating data, water quality information, and existing facility documentation, as well as a site visit to observe current treatment processes and identify potential locations for future PFAS treatment systems. Using this information, the Project would develop and</b></p>

	<p>evaluate PFAS treatment alternatives and prepare draft and final technical reports.</p> <p>The Project would also prepare a detailed Pilot Test Plan and conduct pilot-scale testing entirely within existing Perdue WTP facilities, avoiding any disturbance to surrounding sensitive habitats. Pilot testing would generate operational and water quality data needed to confirm treatment performance and establish design criteria. Interim and final pilot study reports would document results and recommend full-scale treatment approaches.</p> <p>Following pilot testing, a Preliminary Design Report would be prepared outlining the proposed full-scale PFAS treatment facilities and associated improvements. This planning-level document would include process schematics, preliminary layouts, hydraulic and electrical information, SCADA integration concepts, and an assessment of potential impacts on corrosion control and finished water quality. The Project would then prepare construction contract documents, including construction drawings, technical specifications, and cost estimates to support future bidding and award.</p> <p>All Project activities are limited to data collection, analysis, planning, pilot-scale testing within existing facilities, and preparation of design and construction documents. The Project does not involve construction, ground disturbance, or any physical modification of the environment.</p> <p>The Project directly benefits the approximately 190,000 customers served by Sweetwater Authority in National City, Bonita, and the western and central portions of Chula Vista by supporting future PFAS treatment improvements that will protect drinking water quality and public health within the Authority's service area.</p>
6. Name of Public Agency approving project:	Sweetwater Authority
7. Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that 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:	<p>Sweetwater Authority</p> <p>505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910</p> <p>619-409-6823, <a href="mailto:imarquez@sweetwater.org">imarquez@sweetwater.org</a></p> <p>ATTN: Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager</p>
8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	(State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15050(c)(2)-(3), 15378)
(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))
(d) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))
(e) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	Class 6, Information Collection. CEQA Guidelines §15306


(f) <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	(State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3) Common Sense exemption)
9. Reason why project was exempt:	<b>The Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15306, which applies to basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Project consists solely of technical evaluation, data analysis, planning, and pilot-scale testing conducted entirely within existing water treatment plant facilities. No construction, ground disturbance, vegetation removal, or physical modification of the environment would occur. Pilot testing would be temporary, small-scale, and fully contained within existing operational areas of the Perdue WTP, avoiding all surrounding sensitive habitats. The Project does not approve, authorize, or commit the Authority to any future construction or capital improvements. None of the exceptions to categorical exemptions under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 apply.</b>

10. Lead Agency Contact Person:  Telephone:	<b>Sweetwater Authority</b> <b>505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910</b> <b>619-409-6823, <a href="mailto:imarquez@sweetwater.org">imarquez@sweetwater.org</a></b> <b>ATTN: Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager</b>
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11. If filed by applicant: Attach Certificate of Determination (Form "B") before filing.

12. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes  Not   
 If yes, the date of the public hearing was:

Date: March 25, 2026

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

Name: Xochitl Aranda, P.E.

Title: Director of Engineering and Operations

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:

(Clerk Stamp Here)

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

**CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION**

(If Notice of Exemption filed by Project Applicant, Project Applicant must Attach to Notice of Exemption)

1. Name or description of project:	<b>Planning and Design of PFAS Removal Treatment System Project</b>	
2. 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):	<b>100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977. Project would occur at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant. See Figure 1.</b>	
3. Entity or person undertaking project:	<b>A. Sweetwater Authority</b>	
	<b>B. Other (Private)</b>	
	(1) Name	
	(2) Address	
4. Staff Determination:		
The Lead Agency's Staff, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Lead Agency's Local Guidelines for Implementing CEQA has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:		
a. <input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.	
b. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is a Ministerial Project.	
c. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is an Emergency Project.	
d. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.	
e. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is categorically exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption Class:	
f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is statutorily exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption:	<b>Class 6, Information Collection. CEQA Guidelines §15306</b>
g. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:	
h. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.	
	Name of Lead Agency:	

Date: **March 23, 2026**

Staff: **Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager**

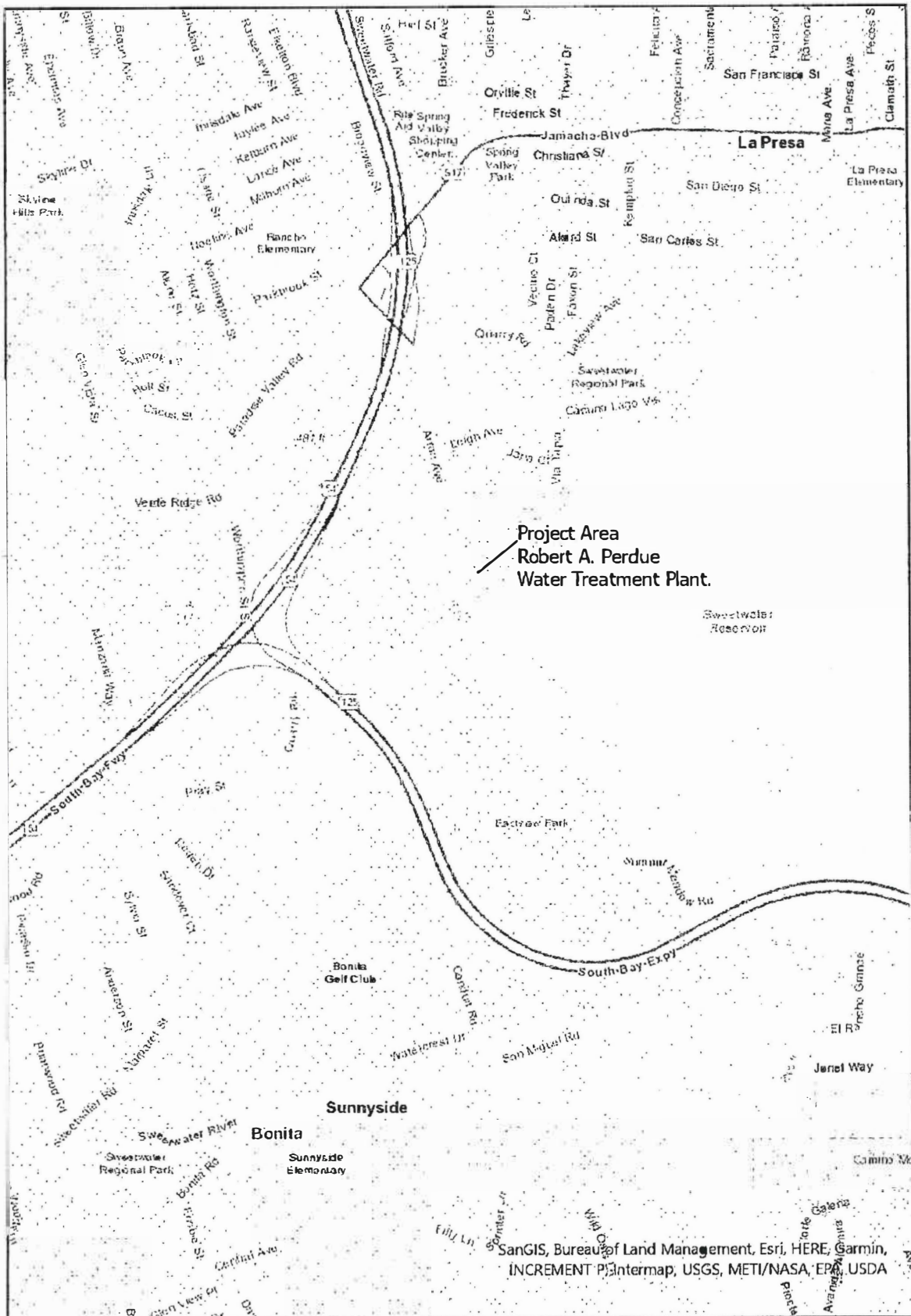


Figure 1. Regional Map

Planning and Design of PFAS Removal Treatment System Project





San Diego County



Transaction #: 8950367  
Receipt #: 2026116106

JORDAN Z. MARKS  
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk  
1600 Pacific Highway Suite 260  
P. O. Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750  
Tel. (619) 237-0502 Fax (619) 557-4155  
[www.sdarcc.gov](http://www.sdarcc.gov)

Cashier Date: 03/26/2026  
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 03/26/2026 8:11 am

Payment Summary

Total Fees:	\$50.00
Total Payments:	\$50.00
Balance:	\$0.00

Payment	
VITALCHEK PAYMENT	\$50.00
Total Payments	\$50.00
Filing	
CEQA - NOE	FILE #: 2026-000287 Date: 03/26/2026 8:11AM Pages: 6
	State Receipt # 37-03/26/2026-0265
Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee	\$50.00
Total Fees Due:	\$50.00
Grand Total - All Documents:	\$50.00



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 37-03/26/2026-0265
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER(If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SWEETWATER AUTHORITY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/26/2026
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COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN DIEGO	DOCUMENT NUMBER 37-2026-0265
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PROJECT TITLE  
 PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PFAS REMOVAL TREATMENT SYSTEM PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SWEETWATER AUTHORITY	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 619-409-6823
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PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 505 GARRETT AVENUE	CITY CHULA VISTA	STATE CA	ZIP CODE 91910
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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)	\$4,227.50	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$	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		\$	0.00

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Cash     Credit     Check     Other

TOTAL RECEIVED    \$    50.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE San Diego County Clerk, ELVA STOPKE, Deputy
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Payment Reference #: VITALCHEK: 218056577/00758D