

Categorical Exclusion and Extraordinary Circumstances Review Form

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC 20460

I. General Information

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| Project Name | WIFIA Id Number |
| Regional Wastewater System Improvements Program | 20111CA |
| Borrower Name | |
| Inland Empire Utilities Agency | |
| Project Description | |
| <p>The Regional Wastewater System Improvements Program includes the Philadelphia Force Main Improvements project, the Carbon Canyon Water Recycling Facility (CCWRF) Asset Management and Improvements Project, the Regional Water Recycling Plant Number 5 Expansion Project, and the Regional Water Recycling Plant Number 1 Solids Thickening Project. The projects will implement improvements across multiple facilities within the wastewater system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Philadelphia Force Main Improvements project will increase the flow capacity and overall efficiency of the lift stations that convey industrial wastewater and safeguard the high quality of recycled water. The project will improve maintenance access and remove accumulated deposit buildup by providing new force main pipelines with clean-out vaults for the Philadelphia Lift Station and miscellaneous upgrades to the Philadelphia Lift Station.• The Carbon Canyon Water Recycling Facility (CCWRF) Asset Management and Improvements Project will enhance the facility's ability to reliably produce high quality recycled water and simplify operation and maintenance of the facility. The project will construct improvements to the primary, secondary, and tertiary treatments to ensure treated wastewater meets Title 22 requirements. The Project will replace the existing influent screens, odor control, and the aeration blowers.• The RP-5 Expansion project includes two main components: Their analysis confirmed the following treatment needs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Expand RP-5 Liquids Treatment System to meet service area needs○ Relocate RP-2 Solids Treatment to RP-5 and build a new solids treatment plant at RP-5• The RP-1 Solids Thickening Project includes improvements to RP-1 systems to increase the capacity to an equivalent of 60-mgd AADF to handle solids from both RP-1 and RP-4 and includes a new rotary drum thickener (RDT) building and three new acid-phase digesters. | |

Project Location Description (*street address/city/state/ZIP code; site characteristics*)

The project is located across various IEUA facilities in Chino and Ontario, California

II. EPA Contact for Environmental Review on this Project (If different from Responsible Official)

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Name | Title | Phone Number |
| Leslie Temple | Environmental Reviewer | (202) 564-4734 |

III.A. Categorical Exclusion Eligibility (*Check YES or NO*) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation can be included in Attachment 1.

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| If yes to any, CATEX applies | Does the project involve actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (e.g., sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) and involve: | | |
| | YES | NO | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Minor upgrading |

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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and its components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Construction of new minor ancillary facilities next to or on the same property as existing facilities |
| If yes to any, CATEX does not apply | Will the project include actions that: | | |
| | YES | NO | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purpose of future development |

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| III.B. Extraordinary Circumstances (Check YES or NO) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project involves any of the following extraordinary circumstances which would make it ineligible for a CATEX pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation can be included in Attachment 1. | | |
| YES | NO | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) Is the action known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2) Is the action known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with naturally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6) Is the action known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7) Is the action known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 8) Is the action known or expected to significantly cause significant public controversy about potential environmental impacts of the proposed action? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 9) Is the action known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10) Is the action known or expected to conflict with federal, state, or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations? |

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III.C. Extraordinary Circumstances Statement (*Check ONLY ONE box*) If the responses to Section III.A indicate the project is CATEX eligible, and if a **NO** response was recorded for each of the questions in Section III.B, then no Extraordinary Circumstances are present pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b) and one of the following statements should be selected.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) No extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on either past experience with similar actions at the proposed action site resulting in a CATEX and/or information gathered as part of previous NEPA or environmental due diligence review conducted at the proposed action site . Provide any supporting documentation or references in Attachment I. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) A statement and supporting documentation is attached explaining why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). |

IV. NEPA Review Determination and Responsible Official Signature

Sections I through III must be completed to satisfy EPA's documentation requirements for CATEX eligibility. If completion of this form indicates that a CATEX *does apply*, the Responsible Official must sign below.

Categorical Exclusion Determination The EPA finds that the proposed action is eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii), and will not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances delineated under 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Consequently, the EPA will not prepare an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment for the proposed project. The EPA may revoke this categorical exclusion if changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion or if new evidence emerges which indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist or federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

As the Responsible Official, I have determined that **this action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion** per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204. Section III.C of this form has been completed providing the required Extraordinary Circumstances Statement.

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| Signature of Responsible Official | XXXXXX | |
| | Title | Date |

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| Attachment 1. CATEX Eligibility and/or Extraordinary Circumstances Statement(s) | |
| <p>The space below may be used for a statement and supporting documentation explaining CATEX eligibility why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). Attach additional pages as needed.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 7, 2022, the species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using the Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPaC). No critical habitats under the jurisdiction of the USFWS are known to occur within the project areas. Based on the IPaC list and limited project impacts, EPA determined that the project will have no effect on listed species; therefore, consultation with the USFWS was not needed. The state of California has a people of color population of 62 percent and a low-income population of 33 percent. San Bernardino County has a people of color population of 71 percent and a low-income population of 39 percent. The 5 blockgroups that make up the Project Area have a people of color population range between 71 and 90 percent and a low-income population range of 15 to 56 percent. The project will occur entirely within the existing system facilities, and any potential impacts from noise and vibration, odor, and transportation and traffic will be reduced through best management practices and mitigation plans. Implementation of the project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations. EPA previously assessed the RP-5 project under the 2019 WIFIA loan and consulted with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at that time. On December 17, 2019, the SHPO provided a response letter stating that it does not object with EPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected by the project. The California Water Resources Control Board is the lead agency for SHPO consultation for the RP-1 project and made a determination of no historic properties affected. The SHPO concurred with the Board's determination. On December 16, 2021, EPA requested concurrence with its prior 2019 determination. On February 1, 2022, EPA received a letter from SHPO stating that SHPO does not object to the determination. | |