



## California Environmental Quality Act: Notice of Exemption

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**From:** The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
P.O. Box 54153  
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

**Project Name:** Granting of Four Farm Leases in the Palo Verde Valley between The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Joey DeConinck Farms, Quail Mesa Ranch, Nish Noroian Farms and Red River Farms

**Project Location - Specific:** Approximately 3,842 gross acres of land north of Interstate 10 near Blythe, California, also known as Riverside County Assessor Parcel Nos. 815-302-008; 815-310-013; 815-320-007; 815-190-007; 815-190-012; 815-190-014; 815-200-007; 815-200-011; 827-061-004; 827-061-005; 827-062-006; 827-062-003; 827-062-008; 827-062-016; 827-062-017; 827-071-002; 827-080-004; 827-080-008; 827-080-010; 827-080-027; 827-080-028; 827-080-029; 833-030-012; 833-050-014; 833-050-007; 833-050-008; 833-050-010; 833-050-012; 827-190-006; 827-190-004; 827-190-005; 827-190-006; 827-190-007; 827-190-009; 827-190-010; 827-190-012; 833-060-001; 833-060-004; 833-060-018; 833-060-024; 833-060-025; 833-060-026; 833-060-027; 833-100-005; 833-100-007; 833-100-011; 833-100-012; 833-100-017; 830-230-006; 833-140-005; 830-210-009; 830-210-010; 833-210-013; 833-220-003; 833-230-001; 833-230-002; and 833-280-002

**Project Location - City:** Blythe

**Project Location - County:** Riverside

**Description of Project:** The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is entering into four new agricultural lease agreements with Joey DeConinck Farms, Quail Mesa Ranch, Nish Noroian Farms and Red River Farms. The new leases would have a three-year base term beginning on July 1, 2019, with an option to extend for up to two additional years at Metropolitan's discretion. The leases would include provisions for the lessees to fallow a portion of the lands in accordance with the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) fallowing program.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Exempt Status:** (check as applicable)

- ☐ Ministerial (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines
- ☐ Not a Project (Public Resources Code § 21065, State CEQA Guidelines § 15378)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines)
- ☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(2); State CEQA Guidelines)
- ☐ Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption, Class 1, State CEQA Guidelines §15301, Class 4, State CEQA Guidelines §15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemption, State CEQA Guidelines
- ☐ Other, State CEQA Guidelines

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines because it involves leasing of existing public or private structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The proposed action also is exempt because it involves minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Class 1 and Class 4 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Lilia I. Martínez at (213) 217-5656

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Team Manager

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 15 2019

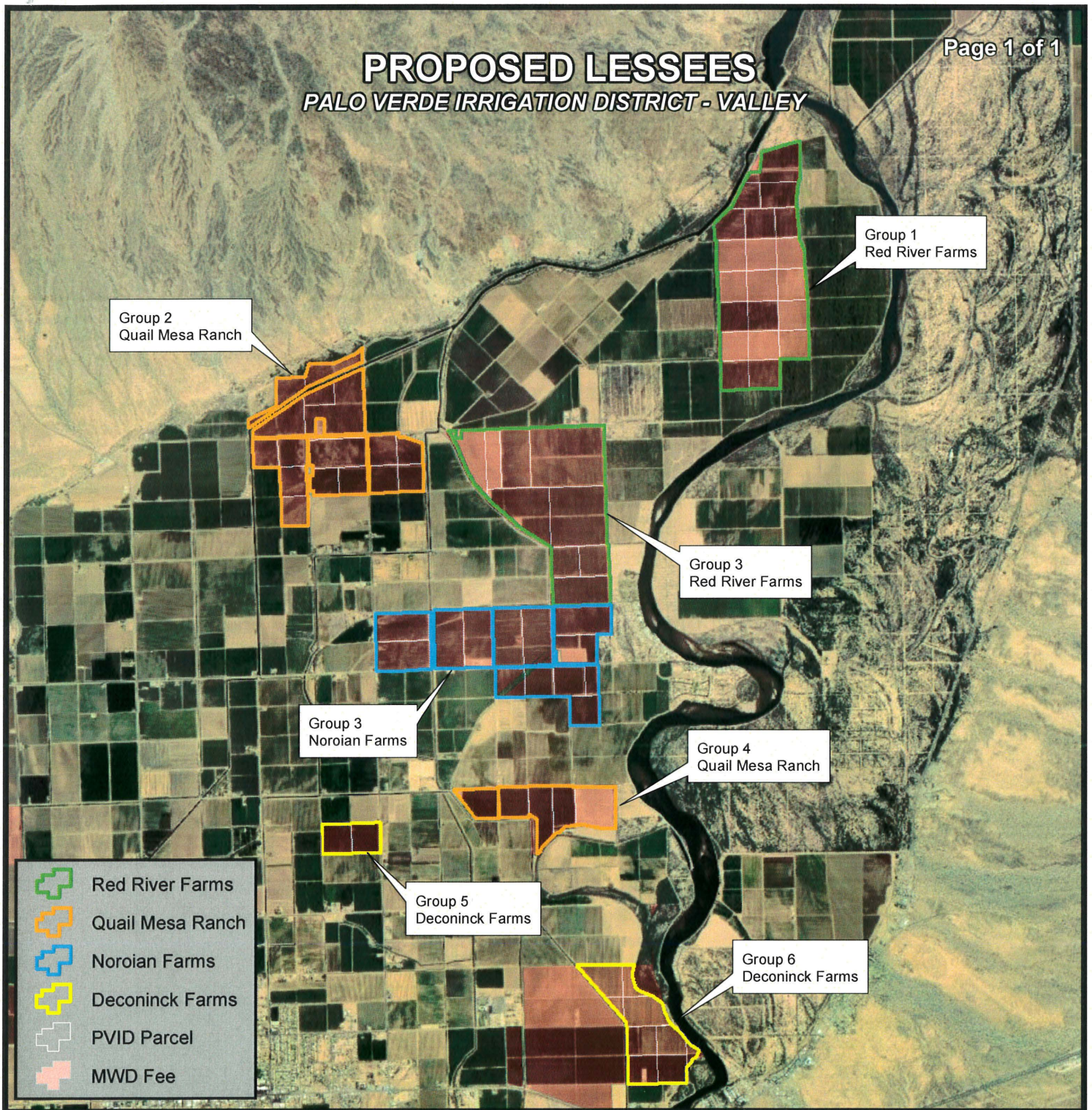
Date: May 14, 2019  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Date received for filing:



# PROPOSED LESSEES

## PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT - VALLEY



Feet  
0 1,500 3,000 6,000

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PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

# RFSI

Proposed Lessees - Overall



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Engineering Services Group