

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY
EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

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PROJECT TITLE: Smart Irrigation Controller Direct Install Program

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Eligible residential and commercial properties within the City of Fresno water service area, including unincorporated County of Fresno islands, where clock irrigation timers are currently installed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Smart Irrigation Controller Direct Install Program will allow the City to provide eligible water customers with free smart irrigation controllers on a first-come, first-served basis. To be eligible, customers must have a City of Fresno water account, must have a clock irrigation timer currently installed, must have Wi-Fi available, and must have use of a smart phone, tablet, or computer.

Through this program, the City expects to purchase approximately 1,500 smart irrigation controllers to be distributed and installed through the Smart Irrigation Controller Direct Install Program. Water Conservation staff will install the controllers at individual properties and program the timers to maximize the efficiency of the specific existing irrigation system. Timers will be distributed equitably across the City's seven Council districts. The project is estimated to reduce total potable water consumption citywide by approximately 360 acre-feet per year (AFY).

The Project is exempt under Section 15301/Class 1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Under Section 15301/Class 1, projects are exempt from CEQA requirements when they consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Specifically exempt under Section 150301, Subsection (a), is interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances.

The Project described herein solely represents the distribution and installation of smart irrigation controllers at properties with clock irrigation timers currently installed. Water Conservation staff will install the controllers at individual properties and program the timers to maximize the efficiency of the specific existing irrigation system, resulting in more efficient landscape irrigation and a reduction in water use. The project is estimated to reduce total potable water consumption citywide by approximately 360 acre-feet per year (AFY).

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, apply:

(a) Location

The Project is not located in a sensitive environment or an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern as designated by federal, state, or local agencies. The residential and commercial properties located in the City of Fresno water service area are not considered a sensitive environment or an environmental resource.

(b) Cumulative Impact

The Project will not have a cumulative negative impact over time that is significant. The conversion from clock irrigation timers to smart irrigation controllers will support more efficient landscape irrigation by decreasing water use and conserving water resources.

(c) Significant Effect

The Project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The smart irrigation controller replacement follows a standardized process that is limited to eligible properties. To be eligible, customers must have a City of Fresno water account, must have clock irrigation timer currently installed, must have Wi-Fi available, and must have use of a smart phone, tablet, or computer.

- (d) Scenic Highways** The Project will not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The Project is not located near scenic highways.
- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites** The Project is not located on a hazardous waste site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. The residential and commercial properties are not allowed to be zoned on hazardous waste sites.
- (f) Historical Resources** The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Project is limited to conversion from clock irrigation timers to smart irrigation controllers at residential and commercial properties, which are not considered historical resources.

As such, a Categorical Exemption has been prepared for the Project.

Date: October 5, 2022

Prepared by: Cheryl Burns, MPA