

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019088066

To: Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To: Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

To: Los Angeles County
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Business Filings and Registration
P.O. Box 1208
Norwalk, CA 90650-1208

Lead Agency/Applicant
From: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD
12109 Highway 166
Bakersfield, CA 93313-9630
661-527-6069

Project Title: 2019 Transfer of State Water Project water to Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District ("WRM") from Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency ("AVEK") on behalf of Common Landowner, Tejon Ranch Co ("TRC").

Location -- Specific: AVEK is located in Kern County and Los Angeles County; WRM is located in Kern County and is a Member Unit of the Kern County Water Agency located on the Westside of Kern County.

Location -- Counties: Los Angeles County and Kern County.

Description of Activity: WRM is proposing to transfer 2,454 AF of 2019 State Water Project water from AVEK. AVEK will make available for delivery to WRM 2,454 AF of its 2019 SWP water at Points of Delivery commonly known as Reaches 14-16 of the California Aqueduct, and/or as otherwise suitably designated, all within Kern County, California. This transfer will occur in the 2019 Water Year on behalf of a common landowner to both Districts, Tejon Ranch Co.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa WSD (Lead Agency), California Department of Water Resources and Kern County Water Agency (Responsible Agencies), Los Angeles and Kern County.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

Reasons why activity is exempt: CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing significant environmental impacts. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Wheeler Ridge finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility for significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.
2. The project does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result