

Notice of Exemption

E202010000023

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Fresno
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

From: (Public Agency): Westlands Water District
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703-6056
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY
JAN 22 2020 TIME 12:20pm

Project Title: Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 1 Central Valley Project Water Repayment Contract #7-07-20-W0055-XXX (Centinella Assignment Conversion to Repayment)

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District - Distribution District No. 1

Project Location - Specific:
Within the boundaries of the Westlands Water District

Project Location - City: Not Applicable Project Location - County: Fresno and Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The project is the execution of Contract #7-07-20-W0055-XXX (Centinella Assignment), which would convert Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 1's (District) existing water service contract to a repayment contract that provides the terms and conditions for water service with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of continuing delivery of Central Valley Project water within established parameters to lands within the District's existing service area boundary. The beneficiaries of the project are the District, its landowners, and water users. The USBR is a party to the bilateral agreement and as such is a recipient of the District's approval (Pub. Resources Code, §§21065, 21167.6.5). The project is entirely administrative in scope.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Westlands Water District - Distribution District No. 1

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District - Distribution District No. 1

- Exempt Status: (check one):
[] Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
[] Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
[] Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines, §15301
[X] Statutory Exemptions. State code number: CEQA Guidelines, §15261

Reasons why project is exempt:
The project is statutorily exempt from compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15261, because it is merely a continuation of a project approved, funded and fully operated prior to November 23, 1970 and no modification or alteration in the Central Valley Project or the amount of water delivered is proposed.
The project is also exempt under 14 CCR 15301 as it provides for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Project is wholly administrative in scope as the project involves no construction, alteration, or expansion of an existing use.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Jose Gutierrez Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6215

- If filed by applicant:
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? [X] Yes [] No

Signature: [Signature] Date: January 22, 2020 Title: Chief Operating Officer
[X] Signed by Lead Agency [] Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.