

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Lead Agency/Applicant Name:
Semitropic Water Storage District
1101 Central Ave., Wasco CA 93280-0877

County Clerk
County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

(Address)

Project Title: Policy for Banking Partner Water Sales to District Landowners for In-District Irrigation during Year of Purchase (Project)

Project Location – Specific: Semitropic Water Storage District. See Exhibit A attached hereto.

Project Location – County: Kern.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project includes adoption of a policy of terms and conditions for Banking Partners with banking contracts with Semitropic Water Storage District and/or one or more of its improvement Districts including the Semitropic Improvement District of the Semitropic Water Storage District (District), wishing to sell a portion of their water banked in the Semitropic Water Banking Program to District landowners for irrigation use inside the District during the year of purchase. Participating District bankers and landowners would be required to enter into any and all agreements the District may require as a condition of any such transaction.

The Project would be subject to, among other things, District priorities, capacity and all other restrictions and requirements in said banker's banking contracts and in the EIR, Supplemental EIR and addenda thereto for said banking program including mitigation referenced therein (collectively, "EIR") and the then existing requirements of the District's Consolidated Rules and Regulations for Distribution of Water (which may be amended to include rules or regulations for the Project), as applicable. The Project would use existing water facilities and not involve any construction. The Project would support existing irrigation uses within the District and would require less than energy than if participating Banking Partners pumped returned their banked supplies to a non-District place of use through the California Aqueduct.

Beneficiaries of the project are bankers, landowners and irrigation water users within the boundaries of the District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301.

The "common sense" exemption: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3).

Reasons why project is exempt: The District has found and determined as follows:

Activities necessary to implement the Project that may have environmental impacts, e.g. recovery, conveyance and use of banked/surface water in lieu of pumping native groundwater supplies, are addressed in the EIR for the Semitropic Groundwater Banking Program.

Furthermore, District has found and determined that to the extent such activities could possibly constitute a project, the Project is exempt under CEQA. This determination is based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing significant environmental impacts, and that where (as here) it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment in comparison to baseline conditions, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Furthermore, the District has found and determined Project has no possibility for significant effect on the environment because, (i) the Project will use existing facilities and would not require any construction, (ii) the Project does not create, require or constitute a new permanent source of water supply, and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts, (iii) there will be no land use changes as a result of the Project, (iv) no new lands will be brought into production as a consequence of sales of banked water; and (v) all such water will be used inside the District to meet existing irrigation demands in lieu of being conveyed to the California Aqueduct for use outside the District which will require additional energy use than if the banked water remains and is beneficially used on irrigated lands in the District. Additionally, the District has found and determined that the delivery, storage and return of transfer water will utilize the operation of existing facilities, and there will be no expansion of existing or future use. Therefore, the Class 1 existing facilities exemption (CEQA Guidelines section 15301), and the common sense exemption apply (CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jason Gianquinto, General Manager
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 758-5113

If filed by applicant:

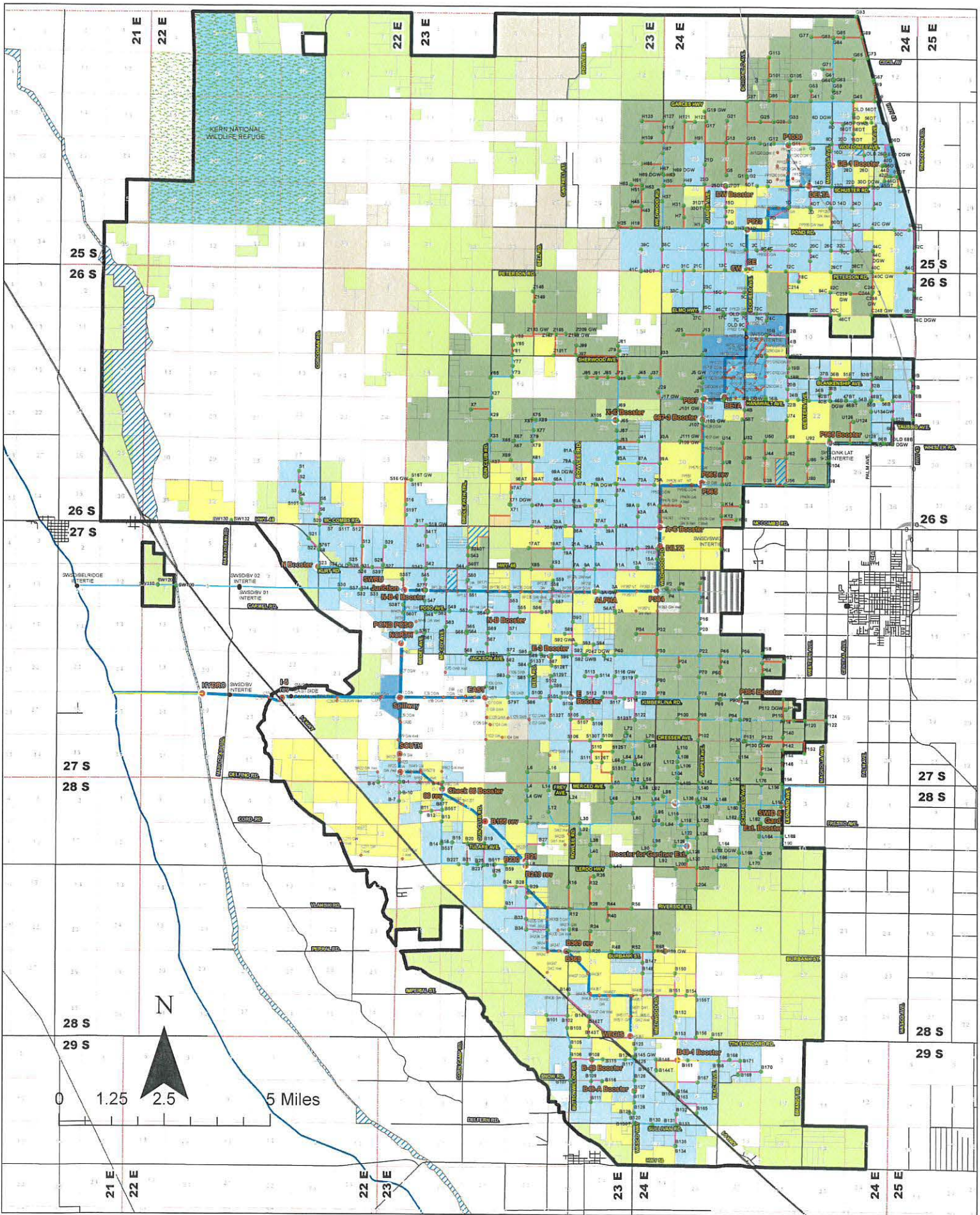
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 14 April 2020 Title: General Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

Signed by Applicant



- Turnout
- In-Canal Pump
- Landowner Recharge
- Roads
- Pumping Plant
- HSR
- Contract
- Groundwater Service
- Groundwater / Future Intermittent Surface water
- In-Lieu
- Consecutive Surface / Groundwater
- District Owned
- District Owned Ponds
- Kern National Wildlife Refuge
- Butteswallow & Lost Hills Water Districts
- None
- Wasco State Prison
- District Owned

SWSD SYSTEMS MAP

EXHIBIT A

- SWSD Pipe Sizes and Type
- ACP
- RCP
- PVC
- PCCP
- PSWSP
- STEEL
- UNKNOWN

