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KERN COUNTY

DEC 01 2020

MARY B. BEDARD
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Kern County Water Agency
PO Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: Amendment to an Agreement between the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Delivery of Central Valley Project (CVP) Friant Recirculation water to Belridge Water Storage District (Belridge).

Location -- Specific: The Agency is a State Water Project (SWP) contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Belridge contracts for SWP water through the Agency and is in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Tulare Irrigation District (Tulare) is a CVP contractor located in Tulare County. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California.

Location -- County: Kern and Tulare Counties.

Description of Activity: In 2020, Tulare will transfer up to an additional 500 acre-feet (af) of 2020 CVP Friant Recirculation water for a total of 2,500 af to the Agency for delivery to Belridge from California Aqueduct turnouts located in the Agency's service area.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Agency (Lead Agency).

Exempt Status:

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

CEQA Guidelines section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves delivery water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. 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. The Agency finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of 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 proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
3. There will be no change in land use.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Holly Melton

Telephone: (661) 634-1400



Signature:

Title: Water Resources Manager

Date: 11/24/2020

Holly Melton

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant
