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RECEIPT # 1543560

FILED  
KERN COUNTY

JUN 09 2020

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Kern County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 58  
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

MARY B. BEDARD  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY *MB* DEPUTY

Kern County Clerk  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Project Title:** Agreement between the Kern County Water Agency (Agency), Mojave Water Agency (Mojave) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Delivery of Mojave's 2020 State Water Project (SWP) water to Belridge Water Storage District (Belridge), Lost Hills Water District (Lost Hills), Berrenda Mesa Water District (Berrenda Mesa) and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (Wheeler Ridge).

**Location -- Specific:** The Agency is a SWP contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Belridge, Lost Hills, Berrenda Mesa and Wheeler Ridge contract for SWP water through the Agency and are in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Mojave is a SWP contractor located in San Bernardino County. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California.

**Location -- County:** Kern County.

**Description of Activity:** In 2020, Mojave will transfer up to 40,384 acre-feet (af) of its 2020 SWP Table A water to the Agency for delivery to Belridge, Lost Hills, Berrenda Mesa and Wheeler Ridge. Within ten years, the Agency will return to Mojave, based on an unbalanced exchange ratio of 4 to 1, up to 10,096 af of the Agency's future SWP Table A water.

**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 Guideline 15301(b).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

CEQA Guideline 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 of water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline 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:

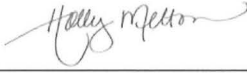
17248

Notice of Environmental Document  
Posted by County Clerk on 06/09/2020  
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

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:**   
**Holly Melton**

**Title:** Water Resources Manager

**Date:** 05/26/2020

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant

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