

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

<p><b>To:</b> Office of Planning &amp; Research 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814</p> <p><b>To:</b> Kern County Clerk 1115 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301</p> <p><b>To:</b> Fresno County Clerk 2221 Kern Street Fresno, CA 93721</p> <p><b>To:</b> Tulare County Clerk Recorder 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Rm. 103 Visalia, CA 93291-4593</p>	<p><b>Lead Agency/Applicant</b></p> <p><b>From:</b> Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD 12109 Highway 166 Bakersfield, CA 93313-9630 661-527-6069</p>
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 20 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**Project Title:** 2020-2021 Water Transfer from County of Tulare, Hills Valley Irrigation District and Tri-Valley Water District all within the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project to Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District within Kern County Water Agency of the Department of Water Resources State Water Project.

**Location -- Specific:** County of Tulare, Hills Valley Irrigation District and Tri-Valley Water District (hereinafter collectively "The Friant Division Districts") are located in Fresno and Tulare Counties. Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa Water Storage District ("Wheeler Ridge") is located in Kern County. Wheeler Ridge has lands in the Delta Export Service Area of the CVP.

**Location -- Counties:** Kern County, Fresno County and Tulare County.

**Description of Activity:** The Friant Division Districts forecast that it will have up to 1,959 AF of 2020-2021 Central Valley Project Cross Valley Canal water supply captured at Banks Pumping Plant in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Rivers Delta ("Point of Delivery or POD") by or before February 28, 2021. Wheeler Ridge is proposing to accept transfer at the POD except as may be mutually further agreed upon by Seller, Purchaser, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Water Resources and Kern County Water Agency.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** County of Tulare, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Tri-Valley Water District, Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa WSD (Lead Agency), Kern County Water Agency (Responsible Agency), California Department of Water Resources (Responsible Agency), Kern County, Fresno County and Tulare 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 in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Wendy A. Jones

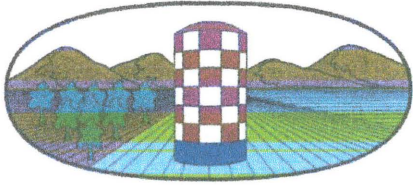
**Telephone:** (661) 527-6069

**Signature:** Wendy A. Jones      **Title:** Water Resources Manager      **Date:** 10. July 2020

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

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# WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

12109 Highway 166, Bakersfield, CA 93313-9630

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July 10, 2020

State Clearinghouse  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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RE: Notice of Exemption  
2020-2021 Water Transfer from County of Tulare, Hills Valley Irrigation District and Tri-Valley Water District all within the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project to Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District within Kern County Water Agency of the Department of Water Resources State Water Project

For filing with the CA State CEQA Clearinghouse, enclosed please find a signed Notice of Exemption regarding the above-referenced project.

Please use the duplicate copy enclosed for returning a conformed copy using the self-addressed stamped envelope, also enclosed.

Thank you.

  
Wendy A. Jones  
Water Resources Manager  
wjones@wrmwsd.com  
661.527.6069

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