

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
Post Office Box 3044  
Sacramento, California 95812

**From:** Department of Water Resources  
State Water Project Analysis Office  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Project Title:** Garden Highway Mutual Water Company 2020 Groundwater Substitution Water Transfer

**Location – Specific:** Northern Sacramento Valley within Sutter County

**Location – County:** Sutter County

**Description of Activity:**

Garden Highway Mutual Water Company (Garden Highway) is conducting a one-year 2020 Groundwater Substitution Water Transfer Program. Garden Highway will forgo 6,497 acre-feet of surface water diversions and pump an equivalent amount of groundwater from Garden Highway-owned wells from June through September 2020. With a 24 percent streamflow depletion factor, up to 4,937.72 acre-feet of surface water foregone by Garden Highway will be made available to for export at Banks Pumping Plant. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will convey up to 4,937.72 acre-feet, minus carriage water, of the transfer water to Dudley Ridge Water District, County of Kings, Alameda County Water District, and Kern County Water Agency between July 1 and September 30, 2020.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** Garden Highway Mutual Water Company, Dudley Ridge Water District, County of Kings, Alameda County Water District, Kern County Water Agency, and DWR

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facility
- Statutory Exemption California Water Code §1729. See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15282, subd. (u).

**Reason why activity is exempt:**

Garden Highway filed a Petition for Temporary Change with the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) on April 1, 2020, pursuant to Water Code § 1725 *et seq.* The Board approved the transfer on June 4, 2020. In accordance with Water Code § 1729, temporary changes filed in accordance with Water Code, § 1725, *et seq.* (Temporary Changes) are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. (Pub. Resources Code, § 2100; see also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15282, subd. (u).)

**Responsible Agency Contact Person:** BG Heiland

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**Signature:** Pedro Villalobos  
Pedro Villalobos, Chief  
State Water Project Analysis Office  
Department of Water Resources

**Date:** 7/30/2020  
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing OPR: Jul 31 2020

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**