

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

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

**Project Title:** Storage and Conveyance of Merced Irrigation District 2020 Short-Term Water Transfer.

**Location -- Specific:** Merced River, and the service area of Kern County Water Agency and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

**Location -- County:** Merced and Mariposa Counties.

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), and Santa Clara valley Water District (SCVWD) have requested that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) store and convey up to 45,000 acre-feet of transfer water from Merced Irrigation District (MID). MID will release the transfer water from Lake McClure (also referred to as New Exchequer Reservoir) on the Merced River. MID's Point of Transfer will be DWR's Cressey gage on the Merced River. The transfer water will flow to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it will be pumped by DWR at the State Water Project (SWP) Banks Pumping Plant and conveyed to KCWA and SCVWD's service areas.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** MID, KCWA, SCVWD, and DWR.

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial 15268);
- Declared Emergency 15269(a));
- Emergency Project; (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(c);
- Categorical Exemption. Use of existing facilities: Sec. 15301
- Statutory Exemption California Water Code §1729. See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15282, subd. (u).

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

MID filed a Petition for Temporary Change with the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) on April 6, 2020, pursuant to Water Code § 1725 *et seq.* The Board approved the transfer on June 29, 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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Department of Water Resources

**Date:** 8/3/2020  
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**