

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Department of Water Resources
State Water Project Analysis Office
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Tule Basin Farms 2020 Groundwater Substitution Water Transfer

Location – Specific: Northern Sacramento Valley within Sutter County

Location – County: Sutter County

Description of Activity:

Tule Basin Farms (TBF) is conducting a one-year 2020 Groundwater Substitution Water Transfer Program. TBF will forgo 3,206 acre-feet of surface water diversions and pump an equivalent amount of groundwater from July through September 2020. With a 13 percent streamflow depletion factor, up to 2,789.2 acre-feet of surface water foregone by TBF will be made available for export at Banks Pumping Plant. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will convey up 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: Tule Basin Farms, 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:

TBF filed a Petition for Temporary Change with the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) on April 3, 2020, pursuant to Water Code § 1725 *et seq.* The Board approved the transfer on June 5, 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: 8/11/2020

Date received for filing OPR: _____

Governor’s Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE