

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Appendix E

To: **X** Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk/County Recorder
County of Fresno
2220 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

X County Clerk/County Recorder
County of Kings
County Government Center
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230

From: **X** Westlands Water District
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703

Project Title: Westlands Water District Central Valley Project Water Repayment Contract #14-06-200-7823J-LTR1-P (Oro Loma Assignment Conversion to Repayment).

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: Within the boundaries of the Westlands Water District.

Project Location – City: Not Applicable **Project Location – County:** Fresno and Kings.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is the execution of Contract #14-06-200-7823J-LTR1-P (Oro Loma Assignment), which would convert Westlands Water District's (District) existing water service contract to a repayment contract that provides the terms and conditions for water service with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of continuing delivery of Central Valley Project water within established parameters to lands within the District's existing service area boundary. The beneficiaries of the project are the District, its landowners, and water users. The USBR is a party to the bilateral agreement and as such is a recipient of the District's approval (Pub. Resources Code, §§21065, 21167.6.5). The project is entirely administrative in scope.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Westlands Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- X** Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines, §15301
- X** Statutory Exemptions. State code number: CEQA Guidelines, §15261

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15261, because it is merely a continuation of a project approved, funded and fully operated prior to November 23, 1970 and no modification or alteration in the Central Valley Project or the amount of water delivered is proposed.

The project is also exempt under 14 CCR 15301 as it provides for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Project is wholly administrative in scope as the project involves no construction, alteration, or expansion of an existing use.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jose Gutierrez

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6215

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? YES NO

Signature:  Date: September 16, 2020 Title: Chief Operating Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.