

**Empire West Side Irrigation District
Finding of Exemption**

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,500 a.f. of EWSID 2020 State Water Project Water to Dudley Ridge Water District

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) will transfer up to 1,500 a.f. of its 2020 State Water Project Water to Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) for Sandridge Partners Inc. who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2020. This proposed transfer is designed to enable both DRWD and EWSID water users to better manage their respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District
Scott Sills
P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
559-352-7947

Recommendation: Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)
A. Applicable Exemption Class: 1
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt: EWSID has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Date: 9/28/20



Scott Sills, General Manager

Empire West Side Irrigation District
21990 Laurel Avenue P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
Phone 559-352-7947

September 28, 2020

State Clearing House
State of California
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Posting of Notice of Exemption - Common Landowner Transfer - up to
1,500 af – Sandridge Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please post the enclosed Notice of Exemption for 30 days. Please provide a
confirmation of posting via Fax or U.S. mail.

Please contact Scott Sills if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Scott Sills
General Manager

Enclosures

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 02 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE