

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: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,500 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's Approved 2020 State Water Project Table A water to Dudley Ridge Water District (SWPAO #20033)

Location -- Specific: From the Delta to Dudley Ridge Water District's (DRWD) turnout(s) at Reaches 8C and 8D of the California Aqueduct

Location -- County: Kings County

Description of Activity: The proposed project is the transfer of up to 1,500 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's (EWSID) approved 2020 State Water Project (SWP) Table A water (2020 Table A Water) to Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD). The request was made on behalf of landowner Sandridge Partners Incorporated, which owns land in both EWSID and DRWD service areas. Sandridge Partners Incorporated will use the transferred water to better manage its water supplies. The delivery of EWSID's 2020 Table A water to DRWD by the Department of Water Resources of the State of California shall be completed by December 31, 2020 and must be used within the SWP place of use.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: EWSID (lead agency), DRWD, and DWR (responsible agency).

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility.
- Statutory Exemption

Reasons why activity is exempt:

- a. State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for delivery within the SWP place of use.
- b. No construction is required to implement the proposed points of delivery.
- c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed change in points of delivery.
- d. The water will be delivered to lands that have been in agricultural production for many years. There will be no change in land use.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: James Edwards

Telephone: 916-653-1053

Signature: Brian G. Heiland
Brian Heiland
Acting SWPAO Chief, DWR

Date: 10/14/2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 14 2020

Date received for filing by OPR: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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