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RECEIPT # 15144742

FILED  
KERN COUNTY

OCT 06 2020

MARY B. BEDARD  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY *MB* DEPUTY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Kern County Water Agency  
PO Box 58  
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Kern County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Project Title:** Agreement between the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Delivery of the Agency's State Water Project (SWP) Water to Westlands Water District (Westlands) and Arroyo Pasajero Mutual Water Company (Arroyo Pasajero) on behalf of Kern-Tulare Water District (Kern-Tulare).

**Location -- Specific:** The Agency is a State Water Project (SWP) contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Kern-Tulare is a Central Valley Project (CVP) Cross Valley Contractor located in Kern County. Westlands is a CVP contractor located in Fresno County. Arroyo Pasajero is located within Westlands' service area in Fresno County. Fresno Irrigation District (Fresno) is a Friant Division CVP contractor located in Fresno County. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California.

**Location -- County:** Kern and Fresno Counties.

**Description of Activity:** In 2020, Kern-Tulare will exchange up to 1,900 af of its previously banked CVP water in West Kern Water District's Groundwater Banking Project with Fresno for a like amount of Fresno's CVP and/or Kings River water. In exchange for an equal amount of Kern-Tulare's previously banked CVP water, the Agency will deliver its SWP water on behalf of Kern-Tulare to Westlands (1,800 af) and Arroyo Pasajero (100 af). In exchange, Fresno will deliver its CVP or Kings River water to Kern-Tulare. This transfer was included in an amendment to the State Water Resources Control Board's 2020 Consolidated Place of Use Order.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** Agency (Lead Agency).

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guideline 15301(b).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.


CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves delivery water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a

significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The Agency finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
3. There will be no change in land use.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Holly Melton

**Telephone:** (661) 634-1400

**Signature:**   
Holly Melton

**Title:** Water Resources Manager

**Date:** 10/01/2020

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_

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1020-219

CEQA  
Transmittal Memorandum

RECEIVED  
KERN COUNTY

OCT 05 2020

MARY B. BEDARD  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

Attach one transmittal memorandum to the front of the original CEQA document. Clip copies in back.  
1) If notice requires F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 3 copies of the document.  
2) If notice does not require F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 2 copies of the document.

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

LEAD AGENCY Kern County Water Agency

PROJECT TITLE Delivery of Kern County Water Agency's State Water Project Water to Westlands Water District and Arroyo Pasajero Mutual Water Company on behalf of Kern-Tulare Water District.

PROJECT APPLICANT Kern County Water Agency

PHONE NUMBER ( 661 ) 634-1400

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS P.O. Box 58

CITY Bakersfield STATE CA ZIP CODE 93302-0058

WORK ORDER # N/A  30-Day Posting  35-Day Posting  45-Day Posting  Other \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON Monica Tennant PHONE NUMBER ( 661 ) 634-1419

CHECK DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Notice of Availability.....No Fee
- Notice of Intent.....No Fee
- Notice of Preparation.....No Fee
- Notice of Public Hearing.....No Fee
- Other Notice of Determination .....No Fee
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR).....\$3271.00
  - Previously paid F&W (must attach F&W receipt) F&W Receipt Number# \_\_\_\_\_
  - DFG No Effect Determination (F&W letter must be attached).....No Fee
  - County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00
- Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration.....\$2354.75
  - Previously paid F&W (must attach F&W receipt) F&W Receipt Number# \_\_\_\_\_
  - DFG No Effect Determination (F&W letter must be attached).....No Fee
  - County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00
- Notice of Exemption.....No Fee
  - County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00

TOTAL \$ 50.00

\*Additional copies to be returned to: Kern County Water Agency

Interoffice Mail

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- JV - Trans Code \_\_\_\_\_ Dept \_\_\_\_\_ Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Expense Key \_\_\_\_\_
- Money Order
- Check

18488

Notice of Environmental Document  
Posted by County Clerk on 10/6/2020  
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code