

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

 County Clerk/County Recorder
 County of Fresno
 P.O. Box 766
 Fresno, CA 93712

 County Clerk/County Recorder
 County of Kings
 1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
 Hanford, CA 93230

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

Project Title: Execution of a Base Resource Contract (20-SNR-02330) with United States Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Sierra Nevada Region

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: District-wide, located in western Fresno and Kings County. See attached figure.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno, Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The nature of the project is the execution of Base Resource Contract 20-SNR-02330 (Contract) with the United States Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Sierra Nevada Region. The Contract extends WAPA's Electric Service for 30 years. Base Resource is the net generation of Central Valley Project power, after First Preference customers and Project Use needs are met. Historically, Westlands Water District (District) receives a percentage of the available Base Resource through Contract with WAPA, which the District assigned to the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority (PWRPA) for electric service to operate pumps in the District.

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));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Existing Facilities, §15301 and Minor Alterations to Land, §15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Execution of the Contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it continues electric service to the District within established parameters, in the same scope and nature of the ongoing Central Valley Project and its existing facilities; it involves no increase in existing service; and no new construction, expansion, or any modification to the existing generation, transmission and distribution system; nor any change in the source of the energy to be delivered, or purposes for which it will be used. Execution of the Contract is categorically exempt from compliance with the CEQA as

provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15300 through 15333, with particular reference to Sections 15301 and 15304, because it merely provides for continued operation of existing facilities and will involve only minor alterations to land already developed and maintained for agricultural purposes.


Lead Agency

Contact Person: Russ Freeman

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6241

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: 2/18/21 Title: Deputy G.M. Resources

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.

