

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: Westlands Water District's Execution of Warren Act Contracts and Exchange Agreements with the United States

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: Central Valley Project (CVP) Contractor service areas of Fresno and Kings Counties within the boundaries of Westlands Water District.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno and Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is the execution of Warren Act Contracts and Exchange Agreements with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of conveying and storing groundwater and other non-Project water on behalf of Westlands Water District (District). 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 (Public Resources Code §§21065, 21167.6.5). The Project is entirely administrative in scope.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Westlands Water District, Fresno & Kings County

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: Review for Exemption, § 15061, Existing Facilities, § 15301, and Minor Alterations to Land, § 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Ongoing Project, § 15261

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act as provided in the California Public Resources Code and implemented through Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 15260 through 15285, with particular reference to Section 15261, because it is merely a continuation of a project approved, funded and fully operated prior to November 23, 1970, and involves no modification or alteration thereof.

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act based on its record of proceedings showing that the proposed actions involve no increase in existing service; and no new construction, expansion, or any modification to the existing distribution system; nor any change in the source of water to be delivered, or the uses to which such supplies will be put and will not have a significant effect on the environment (Section 15162 of CEQA Guidelines).

The project is also categorically exempt from compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act 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, 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: 02/17/2021 Title: Deputy GM - Resources

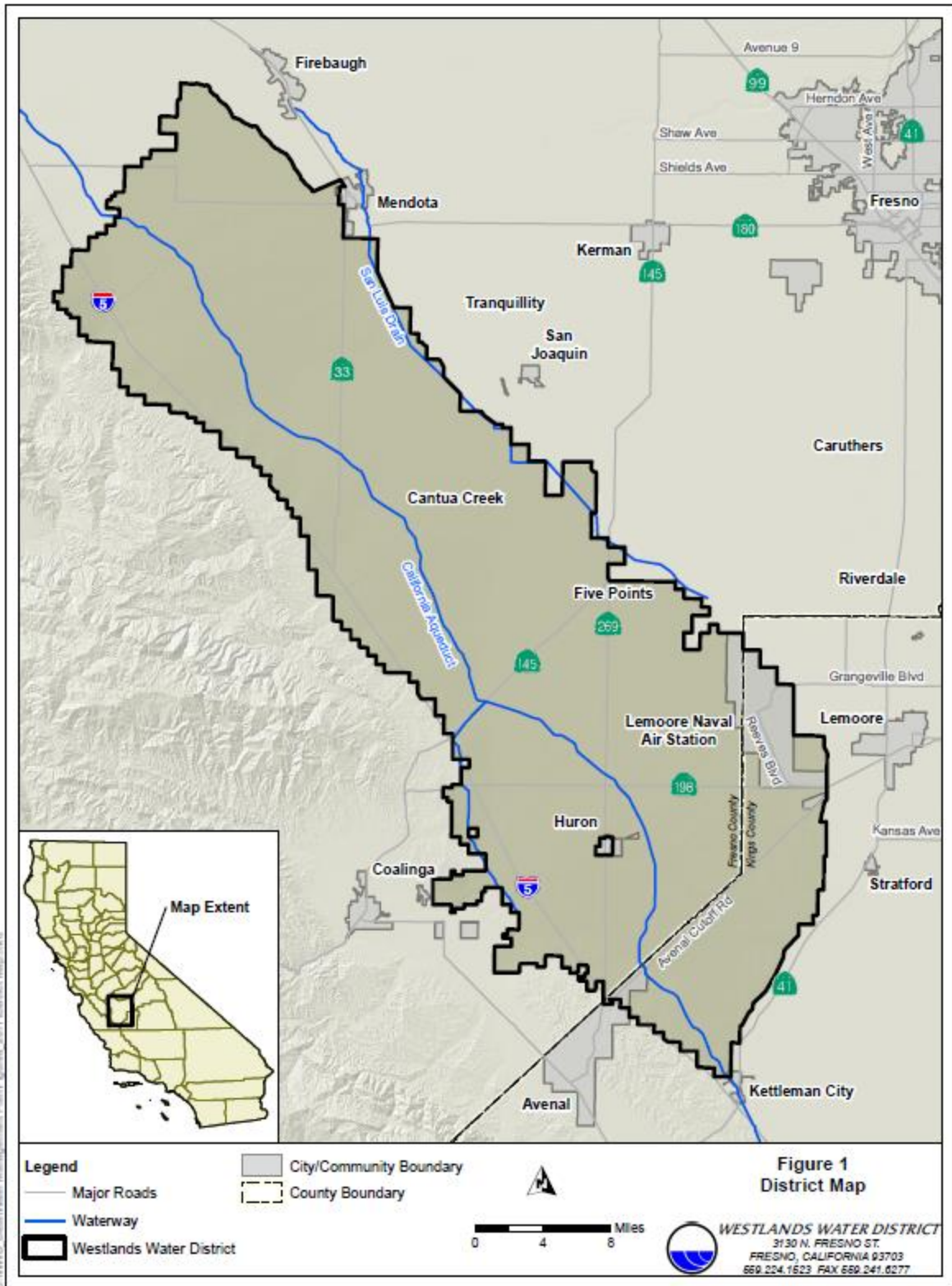
Signed by Lead Agency

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.



C:\WWW\GIS\Water Management\Plan\Figures_2017\District Map.mxd
 Date: 8/27/2015