

Exempt Status: (*check one*)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemptions. (Sec. 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(c));

Reasons why project is exempt:

Westlands Water District has determined that this project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080 (b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) for the following reasons:

On May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency (Proclamation) to address the severe drought condition, in particular the Central Valley. Government Code section 8571 authorizes the Governor to suspend certain regulatory requirements, including CEQA, under emergency conditions. The Proclamation orders the State "to expeditiously consider requests to move water to areas of need, including requests involving voluntary water transfers, forbearance agreements, water exchanges, or other means," and suspends CEQA for purposes of carrying out or approving this and other directives. The Project will carry out this directive and will prevent or mitigate the impacts of the drought emergency.

The Project also is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(4) and CEQA Guidelines section 15269(c) because it involves specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate the drought emergency. The Project also is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15301 because it involves operation of existing facilities with no or negligible expansion of use.

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: 5/25/21 Title: Deputy General Manager 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.