

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 West Lacey Boulevard
 Hanford, CA 93230

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

Project Title: Petitions for Exclusion of Lands from Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: Areas of Fresno County

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

On January 19, 2021 the Board authorized the District to execute an agreement to permanently transfer water allocation with DD2 and its landowners in DD2. Under the executed Agreement, other landowners in DD2 agreed to permanently transfer the right to receive an allocation of Mercy Springs Water District contract supplies to lands located in DD2..

As a continuance of the aforementioned action, the landowners currently within DD2 petitioned the District to exclude lands from DD2 pursuant to California Water Code Section 36510 specifically requesting that the District excludes Fresno County (unincorporated area) Assessor’s Parcels Nos. 058-090-48S, 49S, 51S, 52S, 53S, 54S, 058-090-38, 060-080-73S, 060-080-70S, 71S, 060-140-68S, 040-120-33S, 085-320-14S, 085-320-16S, and 085-320-29S from Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2

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); 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:

Accepting the Petitions for Exclusion of Land from Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2 (Petitions) is a discretionary action that is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the Petition does not result in an expansion or material modification of the underlying activity that was approved in the original pre-CEQA project.

Excluding land is categorically exempt from compliance with the CEQA, as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 15300 through 15333, with reference to Section 15301, because it involves the continued operation of existing facilities without significant expansion of use and there is not a reasonable possibility that the exclusions will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.


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: 06/17/2021 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.

