

Empire West Side Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 200 AF of EWSID 2021 State Water Project Water to Kern County Water Agency.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (District) will transfer up to 200 AF of its 2021 State Water Project Water to Kern County Water Agency for Sandridge Partners Inc. who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2021. This proposed transfer is designed to enable Sandridge Partners Inc. to better manage its respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District
Scott Sills
P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
559-352-7947

Recommendation: Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:


- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)
A. Applicable Exemption Class: 1
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt: EWSID has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Date:

7-1-2021



Scott Sills, General Manager