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KERN COUNTY

JUL 27 2021

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Kern County Water Agency  
3200 Rio Mirada Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93308-4944

MARY B. BEDARD  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
DEPUTY

Kern County Clerk  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Project Title:** Transfer of up to 7,184 acre-feet (af) of Mojave Water Agency's (Mojave) Article 56 Carryover Water to the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) on behalf of Lost Hills Water District (Lost Hills) and Belridge Water Storage District (Belridge).

**Location -- Specific:** The Agency is a State Water Project (SWP) contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Lost Hills and Belridge contract for SWP water through the Agency and are in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. Mojave is a SWP contractor located in San Bernardino County.

**Location -- County:** Kern and San Bernardino Counties.

**Description of Activity:** In 2021, Mojave will transfer up to 7,184 af of its SWP Article 56 Carryover water to the Agency for delivery to Lost Hills and Belridge from California Aqueduct turnouts located in the Agency's service area.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** Agency (Lead Agency).

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guideline 15301(b).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves delivery water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The Agency finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.

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2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
3. There will be no change in land use.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Holly Melton

**Telephone:** (661) 634-1400



**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Holly Melton**

**Title:** Water Resources Manager      **Date:** 7/22/2021

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant

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