

**Notice of Exemption**

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of Contra Costa  
555 Escobar Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder's Office  
ATTN: Business Division  
70 West Hedding Street, First Floor, East Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110

From: Contra Costa Water District  
P.O. Box H20  
Concord, CA 94524  
925-688-8168  
Lead Agency/Applicant and  
Filing Agency

**Project Title:** Water Transfer between Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)

**Project Applicant:** Contra Costa Water District

**Project Location - Specific:** Valley Water and CCWD service areas would receive transfer water originating from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and conveyed through CVP, Valley Water, and CCWD existing facilities.

**Project Location - City:** Various

**Project Location - County:** Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** CCWD and Valley Water are entering into an agreement for CCWD to transfer up to 5,000 acre-feet of its CVP allocation to Valley Water in 2021, and then for Valley Water to transfer the same amount of its CVP water to CCWD by 2023. With ongoing dry hydrologic conditions, low CVP allocations, and Valley Water's loss of storage in Anderson Reservoir due to a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order, the transfer will provide supplemental water supply to Valley Water this year. Water transferred to Valley Water will be made available by CCWD using water previously stored in Los Vaqueros Reservoir in lieu of Contra Costa's CVP allocation, allowing that water to be pumped at the CVP Jones Pumping Plant and conveyed to Valley Water's service area through existing CVP and Valley Water facilities. Water transferred to CCWD will be conveyed using CCWD's existing facilities to its service area. Operations to enable the water transfers will require approval by the Bureau of Reclamation.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Contra Costa Water District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Contra Costa 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. CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Use of Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project 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 a drought emergency.

As a separate and independent basis for determining the project to be exempt, the project is eligible for a Class 1 categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 for Use of Existing Facilities. Conveyance of the water transferred would occur through existing facilities and would not exceed their normal capacity. Accordingly, no construction of new or expansion of existing water conveyance facilities are required to facilitate the proposed transfers of water. The Reclamation approvals of the water transfers would be administrative in nature and provide the necessary regulatory approvals to allow for the water transfers to proceed using existing facilities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lucinda Shih

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (925) 688-8168

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: Lucinda Shih Date: 6/15/21 Title: Water Resources Manager

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.