

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: Article 2 Amendments Incorporating Criteria for Program that Provides for Continued Benefits to Non-Irrigable Lands

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: Areas of Fresno and Kings County

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno and Kings County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

On August 17, 2021, the Westlands Water District (District) Board approved amendments to Article 2 of the District's Regulations for the Allocation and Use of Agricultural Water within Westlands Water District, which would allow lands, which are temporarily fallowed for non-irrigable use(s) to retain the benefits of an allocation of water from the District, if the proposed fallowing: (1) has been analyzed as a project under CEQA by the local land use authority, as lead agency; and (2) satisfies specific criteria that ensure the fallowing is not permanent – the fallowing may be long-term but temporary.

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 Exemptions. (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15061(b)(3), 15301).
- Statutory Exemptions. (Sec. 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(c)).

Reasons why project is exempt:

The revision of Article 2 is categorically exempt from CEQA, as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15061, with reference to Section 15061(b)(3), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the revision of Article 2 may have a significant effect on the environment, and 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 revision will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.


Lead Agency:

Contact Person: Jose Gutierrez

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6215

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: 08/23/2021 Title: Chief Operating Officer

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.

