

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812

From: Department of Water Resources
State Water Project Analysis Office
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Conveyance of up to 2,500 acre-feet of 2021 Central Valley Project Water to Kern County Water Agency (SWPAO #21021).

Location – Specific: From O’Neill Forebay to Reaches 10A through 16A of the California Aqueduct.

Location – County: Kern County

Description of Activity: The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will convey up to 2,500 acre-feet of 2021 Central Valley Project (CVP) water (Non-Project Water) to Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), on behalf of its member unit, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWS), under Article 55 of KCWA’s long-term Water Supply Contract with DWR. This Non-Project Water was acquired from Orange Cove Irrigation District, a CVP Friant Division Contractor. The United States Bureau of Reclamation will make the Non-Project Water available at O’Neill Forebay for DWR to deliver to KCWA’s service area for use in WRMWS’s lands within the CVP place of use.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity: KCWA (lead agency) and DWR (responsible agency)

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility
- Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729

Reason why activity is exempt:

- a. State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for conveyance of non-project water to SWP contractors.
- b. No construction is required to implement the proposed delivery.
- c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed change in points of delivery.
- d. There will be no change in land use.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: Patrick Luzuriaga **Telephone:** 916-820-7778

Signature: John Leahigh Date: 9/10/2021
John Leahigh
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Division of Operation and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources

Date received for filing by OPR: _____