

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk State Clearing House
County of Kings State of California
Kings County Gov. Center 1400 10th Street
Hanford, CA 93230 Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, 1001 Chase Avenue, Corcoran, CA 93212

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 4,500 a.f. of TLBWSD 2022 State Water Project Water to Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: State Water Project Service Area of the Westlands Water District.

Project Location – City: Corcoran

Project Location – County: Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (Tulare Lake) will transfer up to 4,500 a.f. of its 2022 State Water Project water to Westlands Water District for Westlake Farms who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed by December 31, 2022. This proposed transfer is designed to enable Westlake Farms to better manage their 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.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, Westlands Water District, California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Exempt Status:

- 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 (Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

Reasons why project is exempt: Tulare Lake has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts, because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, no additional groundwater will be pumped, and there is no physical change associated with this project. 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).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jacob J. Westra

Telephone: 559-992-4127

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


Signature

January 19, 2022,
Date

General Manager
Title

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Finding of Exemption

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 4,500 a.f. of TLBWSD 2022 State Water Project Water to Westlands Water District

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (Tulare Lake) will transfer up to 4,500 a.f. of its 2022 State Water Project water to Westlands Water District for Westlake Farms who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed by December 31, 2022. This proposed transfer is designed to enable Westlake Farms to better manage their 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: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Jacob J. Westra
1001 Chase Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212
559-992-4127

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: Tulare Lake 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: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Date: January 19, 2022



Jacob J. Westra, General Manager