

Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301 Existing Facilities);

Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

Reasons why project is exempt: The District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts since absent the exchange Tulare Lake Basin WSD would deliver its local supplies for use on District lands. The single year transfer by a Permittee or Licensee 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).

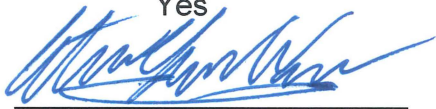
A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) titled: *Short-Term Recirculation of Recaptured San Joaquin River Restoration Program Flows* FONSI Number 18-1-SJRRP and a Final Environmental Assessment titled: *Central Valley Project Interim Renewal Contracts for Cross Valley Contractors 2020-2022 (EA-19-044)* have been published by the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ethan Warren **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

February 4, 2022

Date

Resource Analyst

Title

**Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Finding of Exemption**

Project Title: Conveyance of up to 40,000 acre-feet of Cross Valley Water and/or Friant Recirculation Water stored in San Luis Reservoir to be conveyed in the California Aqueduct and delivered to Tulare Lake Basin WSD by Exchange.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (District) will take delivery of up to 40,000 a.f. of Friant Recirculation Water (FRW) and/or Cross Valley Water (CV) under Article 55 of our State Water Supply Contract. The FRW is stored in San Luis Reservoir on behalf of Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) and Orange Cove Irrigation District (OCID). The Cross Valley Water (CV) from LTRID, Pixley Irrigation District (PIX), and Hills Valley Irrigation District (HVID) will be conveyed through banks pumping plant under Article 55 using state power. The FRW and CV water will be conveyed through the California Aqueduct using state power and delivered to the District in Reaches 8C and 8D. In exchange, a comparable amount of local river supplies will be delivered by District landowners to the LTRID, PIX, HVID, and OCID. Additional FRW and CV contractors may be participating in this exchange. The intention is to deliver the water by February 28, 2023. Any FRW and/or CV that is not delivered will be stored in San Luis Reservoir on the State side on behalf of TLBWSD.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Ethan Warren
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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: The District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts since absent the exchange Tulare Lake Basin WSD would deliver its local supplies for use on District lands. The single year transfer by a Permittee or Licensee 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).

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Name of Lead Agency: Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District



Date: February 4, 2022

Ethan Warren, Resource Analyst