

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Department of Water Resources
Project Water Management Office
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Department of Water Resources Conveyance of up to 40,000 acre-feet of Non-SWP Water to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (SWPAO #22006)

Location – Specific: From O'Neill Forebay, Banks Pumping Plant, and/or San Luis Reservoir to TLBWSD's turnout(s) in Reaches 8C and 8D of the California Aqueduct

Location – County: Kings County

Description of Activity: The Department of Water Resources of the State of California (DWR) will convey up to 40,000 acre-feet of Central Valley Project (CVP) water (Non-Project Water) to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD). This Non-Project Water consists of Friant Recirculation water from Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) and Orange Cove Irrigation District (OCID) and/or Cross Valley water from LTRID, Pixley Irrigation District (PID), and Hills Valley Irrigation District (HVID). The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will make the Non-Project Water available to DWR at O'Neill Forebay and/or Banks Pumping Plant for subsequent delivery by DWR to TLBWSD's service area by February 28, 2023. If TLBWSD is unable to take full delivery of the Non-Project Water by February 28, 2023, DWR may store the remaining amount in its share of San Luis Reservoir, on TLBWSD's behalf, for later delivery to TLBWSD's service area by December 31, 2023. In exchange, TLBWSD will deliver a comparable amount of TLBWSD's local river supplies to LTRID, OCID, PID, and HVID.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity: TLBWSD (lead agency), DWR (responsible agency), Reclamation

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. The project is a water management operation using only existing facilities.
- b. The project will not support new development or a change in land use.
- c. The project does not establish a new permanent source of water supply.
- d. State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for conveyance of non-project water to SWP contractors.

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

Signature: John Leahigh
John Leahigh, Water Operations Executive Manager
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources

Date: 3/10/2022

Date received for filing by OPR: _____