

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

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

Project Title: Conveyance of Non-Project Water to San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SWPAO #22010)

Location – Specific: From Reach 12E of the California Aqueduct to Reaches 4A and/or Reach 4B of California Aqueduct’s East Branch Extension

Location – County: Kern, Los Angeles, and Riverside Counties

Description of Activity: Department of Water Resources (DWR) will convey up to 1,700 acre-feet of Non-Project Water to San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA). This Non-Project Water is “Nickel Water” located in Kern County. Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) acquired the rights to take annual delivery of 1,700 acre-feet of this “Nickel Water” through a series of agreements as described in the July 7, 2017 Water Supply Agreement between SGPWA and AVEK. The Water Supply Agreement between SGPWA and AVEK sets forth the terms and conditions of SGPWA’s purchase of 1,700 acre-feet of Non-Project Water from AVEK. Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) will make the Non-Project Water available in Reach 12E of the California Aqueduct for subsequent delivery by DWR to SGPWA’s service area. The conveyance of the Non-Project water to SGPWA shall be completed by December 31, 2022.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity: SGPWA (Lead Agency), AVEK, KCWA, 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
John Leahigh
Water Operation Executive Manager
Division of Operation and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources

Date: 5/24/2022

Date received for filing by OPR: _____