

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From: Central Coast Water Authority
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427

Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Project Title: Central Coast Water Authority and Sutter Extension Water District 2022 Dry Year Transfer

Location – Specific: Existing State Water Project (SWP) facilities to existing turnouts in Santa Barbara and Sutter Counties. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. The SWP is owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), headquartered in Sacramento, California. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SBCFCWCD) contracts with DWR for the delivery of SWP water to Santa Barbara County (SWP Contract). The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has assumed responsibility for the SWP contract. CCWA is headquartered in Santa Barbara County and CCWA's service area is located in Santa Barbara County. The Sutter Extension Water District (SEWD) is headquartered in Sutter County and SEWD's service area is in Sutter County.

Location – County: Santa Barbara and Sutter Counties

Description of Activity: Due to prolonged drought conditions and low allocation of SWP "Table A Amount" for 2022, CCWA currently needs additional water supplies to supplement its 2022 supplies. SEWD will make available for transfer to CCWA and other public agencies up to 3,000 acre-feet (AF) of water available because of its pumping of groundwater from transfer wells for irrigation in lieu of diverting surface water under its 1969 Agreement on Diversion of Water from the Feather River with DWR. SEWD's point of transfer will be the Thermalito Afterbay river outlet. Delivery to CCWA's shall occur on or before December 31, 2022 at the delivery structures along the Coastal Branch Repayment Reach Nos. 35 and 38. All water delivered to CCWA shall be used entirely within CCWA's service area. The water will be conveyed through existing facilities from the point of transfer to the point of delivery pursuant to an agreement among SEWD, DWR, SBCFCWCD and others providing for the conveyance and storage of the transfer water.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Central Coast Water Authority. Other approving agencies include: California Department of Water Resources, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Sutter Extension Water District.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption (Not a Project Under CEQA)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

- a. The transfer will facilitate the delivery of water, using only existing facilities in Santa Barbara and Sutter Counties and is intended to meet existing uses of water and would not support new development or a change in land use. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15061(b)(3), 15301.)
- b. The transfer is entirely within the authorized SWP place of use.

Agency Contact Person: Ray Stokes

Telephone: (805) 688-2292

Signature: Ray A Stokes

Date: 6-9-22

Ray Stokes

Title: Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: _____

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