

## Notice of Exemption

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To: County Clerk  
County of Kern  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water  
Storage District  
12109 Highway 166  
Bakersfield, CA 93312

County Clerk  
County of Tulare  
221 S Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, CA 93291

County Clerk  
County of Fresno  
2220 Tulare Street  
Fresno, CA 932721

**Project Title:** Water exchange between Fresno Irrigation District (FID), Kern-Tulare Water District (Kern-Tulare), and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSD).

**Project Location:** WRMWSD is located in southwestern Kern County and is a member unit of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). FID is located within Fresno County and Kern-Tulare is located within both Tulare County and Kern County.

**Project Location:** Kern, Tulare, and Fresno Counties

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** FID will deliver 3,725 acre-feet (AF) of pre-1914 Kings River water to Kern-Tulare via the Central Valley Project's (CVP) Friant Kern Canal (FKC). Kern-Tulare will deliver 3,725 AF of its previously banked CVP water to WRMWSD via the State Water Project's (SWP) California Aqueduct and KCWA's Cross Valley Canal. The water will be used to meet current year water shortages within WRMWSD. All water will be transferred via existing CVP, SWP, and local facilities.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:** WRMWSD, FID, Kern-Tulare, and KCWA.

**Name of Persons or Agencies Carrying Out Project:** WRMWSD, FID, Kern-Tulare, and KCWA.

**Exempt Status:** Title 14, CCR, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15061(b)(3); and Article 19, Section 15301(b) (Existing public facilities).

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** For the reasons stated below, this project is determined to be exempt per CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)3 which provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for significant effect on the environment. Further, this project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines section 15301(b) (operation of existing facilities used to provide public utility services which involve a negligible or no expansion of the existing use).

1. The water exchange that is the subject of the agreement is temporary and made for the purposes of assisting the WRMWSD to provide water in this critically dry year.
2. The WRMWSD will use this water to serve its existing customers. It will not be used for new development or serve acreage that has not been historically cultivated.

3. FID does not intend to use the water to be exchanged during the time period relevant to the exchange, so no environmental impacts will occur in the FID service area.
4. The water exchanged will be delivered to existing facilities that have previously complied with CEQA (SWP, CVP, and Cross Valley Canal turnouts for delivery to WRMWSD's customers).
5. The agreement provides adequate advance notice to allow FID, Kern-Tulare, and WRMWSD to manage their supplies such that the transfer will not materially adversely impact their water supplies.
6. The amount of water involved in the temporary transfer is small in proportion to the total supplies of each agency.

**Lead Agency**          Eric McDaris  
**Contact Person:**

**Area Code/Telephone:** 661-527-6069

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  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6.17.22

Title: Water Resources Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency  
 Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_