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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

RECEIPT # 154x320

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KERN COUNTY

To: Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

JUN 17 2022

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

MARY B. BEDARD
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY M.H. DEPUTY

Project Title: Improvement District No. 4 (ID4) of the Kern County Water Agency's (Agency) High Flow Friant-Kern Canal Water Transfer from the Kern Water Bank.

Location -- Specific: ID4 provides a supplemental water supply to the metropolitan Bakersfield area and is located in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County, California. Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District and Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District (Water Districts) are agricultural water districts located in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County, California. The Kern Water Bank is located in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County, California.

Location -- County: Kern County.

Description of Activity: ID4 is proposing to transfer up to 6,500 acre-feet (af) of banked Friant-Kern Canal Section 215 and Friant-Kern Canal Flood water to the Water Districts. The transfer of ID4's water provides an economic benefit to ID4 and allows ID4 to stabilize its water rates. The transfer provides a water supply benefit to the Water Districts as they are able to substitute water acquired from ID4 in place of their existing banked water accounts thereby conserving them for future use. There is no construction, land use change or modification to existing facilities; no new lands will be brought into production as a result of the transfer.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Kern County Water Agency

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guidelines section 15301.
- Statutory Exemption.**

Reasons why activity is exempt: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves banked high flow Friant-Kern Canal water supplies and all deliveries occur entirely within Kern County, and this transfer exclusively utilizes existing facilities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: David Beard

Telephone: (661) 634-1493

Signature: 
David R. Beard

Title: ID4 Manager **Date:** 6/14/2022

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing OPR:

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 06-17-2022
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

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