

E202210000207

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk/County Recorder  
County of Fresno  
P.O. Box 766  
Fresno, CA 93712

From:  Westlands Water District  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703

**FILED**  
JUL 26 2022 TIME 9:34am  
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK  
By *[Signature]* DEPUTY

**Project Title:** Tiered Pumping Allocation within the Westside Subbasin

**Project Applicant:** Westlands Water District, Serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWD)

**Project Location – Specific:** District-wide, located in western Fresno and Kings Counties. See Figure 1.

**Project Location – City:** N/A

**Project Location – County:** Fresno, Kings

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Tiered Pumping Allocation is an effort to optimize the sustainable yield and reduce the risk of undesirable results within the Westside Subbasin. The primary objective of the Tiered Pumping Allocation is to develop a funding source for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) substitute water to the Subsidence Prone Areas (SPA). Secondary benefits include reducing groundwater pumping in the SPA, increasing groundwater levels in the SPA, and redistributing groundwater pumping to other areas of the Subbasin outside the SPA to reduce the level of drawdown within the SPA.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** WWD

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** WWD

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**Exempt Status: (check one)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) and 15378.
- Statutory Exemptions.

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The Tiered Pumping Allocation will not have any significant impact on the environment, so the Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3). WWD, as authorized by the SGMA, approved the Project for the protection of natural resources and the environment, which is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.


**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Russ Freeman

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (559) 241-6241

**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: 7/25/2022 Title: Deputy General Manager Resources

Signed by Lead Agency     Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

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

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.

