

Notice of Exemption

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), Delano Earlimart Irrigation District (DEID), and the Kern Westside Districts (Lost Hills Water District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, Wheeler Ridge- Maricopa Water Storage District).

Project Location: The Westside Districts are located in southwestern Kern County and are all Member Units of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). FID is located within Fresno County and DEID 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 up to 2,800 acre-feet (AF) of high flow pre-1914 Kings River water to DEID via the Central Valley Project's (CVP) Friant Kern Canal (FKC). DEID will deliver 2,800 AF of its previously banked CVP water to the Kern Westside Districts (Lost Hills Water District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, Wheeler Ridge- Maricopa Water Storage District) 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 WS5 service areas. All water will be transferred via existing CVP, SWP, and local facilities.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project: Lost Hills Water District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, Wheeler Ridge- Maricopa Water Storage District, Fresno Irrigation District, Delano Earlimart Irrigation District

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 Westside Districts to provide water in this critically dry year.

2. The Westside Districts 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.
5. The agreement provides adequate advance notice to allow FID, DEID, and the Westside Districts 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.

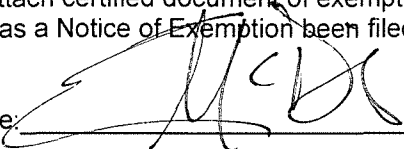
Lead Agency Eric McDaris
Contact Person:

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: _____

8.15.22

Title: Water Resources Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency
 Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____