

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

Sacramento County Clerk/Recorder
County of Sacramento
P.O. Box 839
Sacramento, CA 95812-0839

Placer County Clerk-Recorder
County of Placer
2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Central Coast Water Authority and Carmichael Water District, City of Sacramento, and San Juan Water District 2022 Dry Year Transfer

Location – Specific: Existing State Water Project (SWP) facilities to existing turnouts in Santa Barbara, Sacramento, and Placer 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 Carmichael Water District, City of Sacramento, and San Juan Water District (collectively, the "American River Group") are each headquartered in Sacramento County and each have service areas in Sacramento County. San Juan Water District's service area also extends into southern Placer County.

Location – County: Santa Barbara, Sacramento, and Placer 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. The American River Group will make available for transfer to CCWA and other public agencies up to 15,900 acre-feet of water available because of: (i) groundwater substitution, defined as water made available by pumping groundwater from wells within the North American and/or South American Groundwater Subbasins to provide municipal and industrial water service, and forbearing surface water diversions of an equal amount for delivery to buyers; or (ii) reservoir reoperation, defined as the purposeful release of previously stored water from the sellers' reservoir(s), which absent the water transfer, would remain in storage. Delivery would occur on or before December 31, 2022. All water delivered to CCWA would 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 the American River Group, 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, Carmichael Water District, City of Sacramento, and San Juan 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, Sacramento, and Placer 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 Stokes

Date: 8-24-22

Title: Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: _____