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FILED
KERN COUNTY

JUL 11 2022

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

MARY B. BEDARD
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY

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

From: Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308-4944

Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: Transfer of up to 1,000 acre-feet (af) of Mojave Water Agency's (Mojave) State Water Project (SWP) Water to the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) on behalf of Belridge Water Storage District (Belridge), Lost Hills Water District (Lost Hills), Berrenda Mesa Water District (Berrenda Mesa) and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (Wheeler Ridge).

Location -- Specific: The Agency is a SWP contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Belridge, Lost Hills, Berrenda Mesa and Wheeler Ridge contract for SWP water through the Agency and are in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. Mojave is a SWP contractor located in San Bernardino County.

Location -- County: Kern and San Bernardino Counties.

Description of Activity: In 2022, Mojave will transfer up to 1,000 af of its SWP water to the Agency for delivery to Belridge, Lost Hills, Berrenda Mesa and Wheeler Ridge from California Aqueduct turnouts located in the Agency's service area.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Agency (Lead Agency).

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: Existing Facilities, CEQA Guidelines section 15301(b).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

CEQA Guidelines section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The Agency finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer.

22318

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 07-11-2022
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

facilities and would not require any construction or grading.

2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
3. There will be no change in land use.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Holly Melton

Telephone: (661) 634-1400



Signature: _____
Holly Melton

Title: Water Resources Manager

Date: 7/5/2022

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant
