

SEP 07 2022

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RECEIPT # 15148510
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

AUDITOR CONTROLLED-COUNTY CLERK
BY M.H. 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: Exchange of up to 1,500 acre-feet (af) of Kern-Tulare Water District's (Kern-Tulare) acquired Kings River water with the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) for a like amount of the Agency's State Water Project (SWP) water.

Location -- Specific: The Agency is a SWP contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The Agency's Improvement District No. 4 (ID4) contracts for SWP water through the Agency and is in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. Kern-Tulare is a Central Valley Project (CVP) contractor located in Kern County. Westlands Water District (Westlands) is a CVP contractor located in Fresno County.

Location -- County: Kern and Fresno Counties.

Description of Activity: In 2022, Kern-Tulare will exchange up to 1,500 af of its previously banked CVP water with the Agency for a like amount of the ID4's SWP water for delivery to Westlands from California Aqueduct turnouts located in the Agency's service area. In exchange, Kern-Tulare will receive up to 1,500 af of Fresno Irrigation District's Kings River water.

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:


Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 09-07-2022
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

22491

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing 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:  **Title:** Water Resources Manager **Date:** 9/1/2022
Holly Melton

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant
