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FILED
KERN COUNTY

SEP 07 2022

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

MARY B. BEDARD
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-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: Transfer of up to 2,500 acre-feet (af) of Orange Cove Irrigation Districts' (Orange Cove) 2022 Central Valley Project (CVP) Friant Recirculation Water to the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) on behalf of 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. Wheeler Ridge 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. Orange Cove is a CVP contractor located in Fresno and Tulare Counties.

Location -- County: Kern, Fresno and Tulare Counties.

Description of Activity: In 2022, Orange Cove will transfer up to 2,500 af of its 2022 CVP Friant Recirculation water to the Agency for delivery to 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: See CEQA Guideline 15301(b).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves delivery water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline 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 that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.

22492

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

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
