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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812

From: Department of Water Resources
Water Management
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 200 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's Approved 2022 State Water Project Table A Water to Kern County Water Agency (SWP #22018)

Location – Specific: From the Delta to Kern County Water Agency's (KCWA) turnout(s) in Reaches 9 through 11B of the California Aqueduct.

Location – County: Kern County

Description of Activity: The project is for the delivery of up to 200 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's (EWSID) approved 2022 State Water Project (SWP) Table A water to KCWA. The request was made on behalf of landowner Sandridge Partners Incorporated which farms in both EWSID and KCWA service areas. Sandridge Partners Incorporated will use the transferred water to better manage its water supplies. The delivery of EWSID's approved 2022 Table A water to KCWA under this Agreement will be completed through December 31, 2022 for use within the SWP Place of Use.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity: EWSID (lead agency), KCWA, and the Department of Water Resources of the State of California (responsible agency)

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☑ Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility
- ☐ Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729

Reason why activity is exempt:

a. State Water Project long-term water supply contracts include provisions for delivery within SWP place of use.
b. No construction is required to implement the proposed change in points of delivery.
c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed change in points of delivery.
d. The water will be delivered to lands that have been in agricultural production for many years. There will be no change in land use.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: Patrick Luzuriaga **Telephone:** 916-820-7778

Signature: John Leahigh Date: 9/16/2022

John Leahigh
Assistant Division Manager, Water Management
Division of Operations & Maintenance

Date received for filing by OPR: _____