

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Appendix E

- To:**
- Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
  - County Clerk/County Recorder  
County of Fresno  
P.O. Box 766  
Fresno, CA 93712
  - County Clerk/County Recorder  
County of Kings  
County Government Center  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230
  - County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340
- From:**
- Westlands Water District  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703

**Project Title:** Westlands Water District's 2022 Temporary Water Transfer from San Luis Canal Company.

**Project Location – Specific:** Areas of Fresno, Kings, and Merced Counties.

**Project Location – City:**

**Project Location – County:** Merced, Fresno, and Kings

**Description of Project:**

The project is the transfer of up to 6,000 acre-feet (AF), up to 2,000 AF annually, for the next three years to Westlands Water District (WWD) from San Luis Canal Company (SLCC), a member of San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA). SLCC shall generate the 2,000 AF through the fallow ground program (Fallow for Sale Program) and the water will be made available in the San Luis Reservoir.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Westlands Water District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Westlands Water District, and San Luis Canal Company

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301; 15061(b)(3));
- Statutory Exemptions.

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Westlands Water District has determined that this project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15061 ("Review for Exemption") and Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Furthermore, the water transfer is exempt from CEQA because it continues ongoing operations of existing facilities within established parameters without substantial modification (Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines); and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the water transfer may have a significant effect on the environment, the water transfer is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines).


**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Russ Freeman

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6241

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  YES  NO

Signature:  Date: 09/26/2022 Title: Deputy General Manager Resources

Signed by Lead Agency     Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.