

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Central Coast Water Authority
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427

Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

County Clerk County of Riverside
2720 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

Project Title: 2022 Central Coast Water Authority Water Purchase of Supplemental Water Supplies from San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Location – Specific: Existing State Water Project (SWP) facilities to existing turnouts in Santa Barbara and Riverside Counties. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. The SWP is owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), headquartered in Sacramento, California. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District contracts with DWR for the delivery of SWP water to Santa Barbara County (SWP Contract). The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has assumed responsibility for the SWP Contract. CCWA is headquartered in Santa Barbara County and CCWA's service area is located in Santa Barbara County. The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) contracts with DWR for the delivery of SWP water to Riverside County and also delivers non-SWP water within its service area located in Riverside County.

Location – County: Santa Barbara and Riverside Counties

Description of Activity: Due to prolonged drought conditions and five percent SWP allocations for 2022, the Carpinteria Valley Water District, a CCWA participant, currently needs additional water supplies to supplement its 2022 SWP supplies. On behalf of CVWD, CCWA will engage in the transfer and exchange of water whereby SGPWA will make available for transfer to CCWA for delivery to CVWD up to 400 acre-feet (AF) of SGPWA's 2022 Annual Table A Amount, as that term is defined by the State Water Contract. CCWA will pay SGPWA \$1,500 for every AF of SWP water delivered to CCWA in 2022, and before December 31, 2032, CCWA will return 2 AF of CVWD's Table A Amount for each AF of water delivered to CCWA in 2022. CCWA will not be required to return water in years when the DWR allocation is less than 10 percent. All water returned to SGPWA by CCWA shall be water that otherwise would have been available for delivery to CVWD. The point of delivery for the deliveries is San Luis Reservoir, a DWR facility. All water delivered to CCWA shall be used entirely within CCWA's service area and within the service area of CVWD.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Central Coast Water Authority. Other approving agencies include: California Department of Water Resources, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption (Not a Project Under CEQA)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

- a. The transfer will facilitate the delivery of SWP water from one SWP contractor to another, using only existing DWR facilities and existing facilities in Santa Barbara and Riverside Counties and is intended to

meet existing uses of water and would not support new development or a change in land use. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15061(b)(2), 15061(b)(3), 15301.)

- b. Any impact associated with the reduced availability of SWP water to CVWD when water is returned to SGPWA will be negated by CVWD's existing methods of managing its water supply portfolio, including but not limited to those addressed in its Urban Water Management Plan, such that there is no possibility that the transfer will have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15061(b)(2), 15061(b)(3), 15301.)
- c. The transfer is entirely within the authorized SWP place of use.
- d. None of the exceptions to use of an exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply and the Transfer will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Agency Contact Person: Ray Stokes

Telephone: (805) 688-2292

Signature: _____

Ray Stokes

Date: _____

10-11-22

Title: Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: _____