

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, California 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-Recorder
County of San Luis Obispo
1055 Monterey Street, Room D120
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

County Clerk
County of Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

Project Title: Central Coast Water Authority and San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Agreement for the Transfer and Treatment of State Water Project Water ("Project").

Location – Specific: Existing State Water Project ("SWP") facilities to existing turnouts in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Merced Counties and existing Central Coast Water Authority ("CCWA") water treatment plant and distribution facilities in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. 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"). CCWA has assumed responsibility for the SWP Contract. CCWA is headquartered in Santa Barbara County and its service area is located in Santa Barbara County. CCWA's Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant ("Treatment Plant") is located on the DWR Coastal Branch Extension of the SWP ("Coastal Branch") in San Luis Obispo County. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District") contracts with DWR for the delivery of SWP water to San Luis Obispo County. The District is headquartered in San Luis Obispo County and its service area is located in San Luis Obispo County. San Luis Reservoir, the point of delivery for the Project's transfer from the District to CCWA, is located in Merced County.

Location – County: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Merced Counties.

Description of Activity: Due to prolonged drought conditions, the present drought emergency, and low allocation of SWP "Table A Amount," CCWA needs additional water supplies to supplement its supplies. Under the Project, the District will make available for transfer to CCWA up to 1,000 acre-feet (AF) of its SWP Table A Amount in calendar year 2023. The point of delivery for the transfer will be San Luis Reservoir. Delivery to CCWA will occur on or before December 31, 2023. In exchange, to meet the need for additional treated water caused by the drought emergency, CCWA will provide to the District from CCWA's Treatment Plant an equal volume of treated SWP water in excess of the annual 4,830 AF that the District is allocated pursuant to the existing Master Water Treatment Agreement, dated March 1, 1992, as amended on September 1, 1993 and February 28, 1995, between CCWA and the District. The treated water would be delivered to the District through the Treatment Plant and Reaches 33B and 34 of the Coastal Branch. The District will provide the treated water to local agencies within San Luis Obispo County to supplement existing water supplies during the drought emergency. All water transferred to CCWA would be used entirely within CCWA's service area. All treated water delivered to the District would be used entirely within the District's service area.

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

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption

Reasons why activity is exempt:

- a. The Project will facilitate the delivery of water, using only existing facilities in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Merced Counties and is intended to meet existing uses of water and would not support new development or a change in land use. Further, the Project would not result in the development of any new facilities or in the modification of any existing facilities. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15061(b)(3), 15301.)
- b. The Project is entirely within the authorized SWP place of use.
- c. The Project involves a one-time transfer that would only occur under emergency conditions and is a specific action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15269(c).)

Agency Contact Person: Ray Stokes

Telephone: (805) 688-2292

Signature: Ray A Stokes

Date: November 17, 2022

Ray Stokes

Title: Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: _____