

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From:
United Water Conservation District
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

Ventura County Clerk
800 South Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009

Project Title: Multi-Year State Water Project Transfer from Casitas Municipal Water District to United Water Conservation District (Project)

Project Location: State Water Project water transferred between Ventura County Agencies will be used for beneficial purposes in Ventura County. Water will be delivered through Reach 29 or Reach 30 of the California Aqueduct System and transported to United Water Conservation District's existing facilities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): United Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: United Water Conservation District

Project Description: United Water Conservation District (United) proposes to enter into a contractual agreement with Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) to purchase State Water Project (SWP) Table A contract water for Ventura County until December 31, 2027. The volume of water purchased would be dependent on the annual allocation established by the California Department of Water Resources but would not exceed 5,000 acre-feet each year, which is CMWD's total SWP Table A contract amount. United will take delivery of purchased water through Reach 29 of the California Aqueduct at Pyramid Lake through United's facilities at Lake Piru or through Reach 30 at Castaic Lake. The project will utilize existing facilities and does not involve construction, changes in land use, or negligible expansion of use.

Exempt Status:

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: Guidelines § 15301 – Existing Facilities

Statutory Exemptions: Pub. Res. Code § 21169; Guidelines § 15261(a) – Ongoing Project

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15301 – *Existing Facilities* (Class 1). Section 15301, *Existing Facilities* includes the operation of existing public or private structures or topographical features that does not involve expansion of use. The Project will not result in a negligible or expansion of use, therefore, the *Existing Facilities* exemption is applicable.

The Project is statutorily exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083, CEQA Guideline Section 15261(a) – *Ongoing Project*. Section 15261(a) *Ongoing Project* involves a project which is an incidental part of an original, ongoing pre-CEQA project. The Project is part of the State Water Project contract.

None of the conditions prohibiting exemption set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15261(a) apply, and none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Linda Purpus, Environmental Services Manager
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Linda Purpus
Environmental Services Manager
United Water Conservation District

Jan 17, 2023

Date

Date OPR received for filing: _____