

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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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

From:  Westlands Water District  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703

FILED  
FEB 27 2023  
TIME 11:15am  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK  
DEPUTY

**Project Title:** Westlands Water District's Execution of a Temporary Water Service Contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

**Project Applicant:** Westlands Water District

**Project Location – Specific:** Central Valley Project (CVP) Contractor service areas of Fresno and Kings Counties within the boundaries of Westlands Water District.

**Project Location – City:** N/A

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

**Description of Project:**

The project is the execution of a Temporary Water Service Contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of providing non-storable Central Valley Project water within the Westlands Water District (District) boundaries. The beneficiaries of the project are the District, its landowners, and water users. The USBR is a party to the bilateral agreement and as such is a recipient of the District's approval (Pub Resources Code §§21065, 21167.6.5). The Project is entirely administrative in scope.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Westlands Water District, Fresno County, and Kings County.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Westlands Water District.

**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; § 15304);
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number, § 15282 (u)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Westlands Water District has determined that this project is exempt from the CEQA as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15261 and 15300.2 because the action continues

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ongoing conveyance funded and fully operational prior to November 23, 1970, storage, receipt and delivery of water supplies developed in previous compliance with and/or found to be exempt from the CEQA will continue, and it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed actions in question may have a significant effect on the environment; with no expansion of service and no new facilities constructed because the District will deliver the water received under Temporary Water Service Contract for Section 215 to lands within the District's boundaries for beneficial use on eligible land already in production and through existing facilities.

Execution of the Contract is categorically exempt from compliance with the CEQA as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15300 through 15333, with reference to Sections 15301 and 15304, because it merely provides for continued operation of existing facilities, will involve only minor alterations to land already developed and maintained for agricultural purposes.

**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: *Russ Freeman* Date: 2/24/2023 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.