

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

E202310000052

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 11:05am
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
By [Signature] DEPUTY

Project Title: Westlands Water District's Execution of Warren Act Contracts and Exchange Agreements with the United States.

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 Warren Act Contracts and Exchange Agreements with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of conveying and storing groundwater and other non-Project water on behalf of Westlands Water District (District). The beneficiaries of the project are the District, its landowners, and water users. The USBR is a party to the bilateral agreements and as such is a recipient of the District's approval (Public 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

E202310000052

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 Warren Act Contracts and Exchange Agreements to lands within the District's boundaries for beneficial use on eligible land already in production and through existing facilities.

Execution of the agreements 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:  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.