

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

County Clerk/County Recorder  
County of Fresno  
P.O. Box 766  
Fresno, CA 93712

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

E202310000054  
**FILED**  
FEB 27 2023 TIME 2:30PM  
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK  
By *J. Massey* DEPUTY

**Project Title:** Implementation of a One-Year Program that Would Provide Groundwater Credits for Recharge Using Flood Water or Central Valley Project Section 215 Water

**Project Applicant:** Westlands Water District, Serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWD)

**Project Location – Specific:** District-wide, located in western Fresno and Kings Counties. See Figure 1.

**Project Location – City:** N/A

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

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** Westlands Water District, serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Westside Subbasin, authorized the implementation a one-year program (2023 Contract Year only) that allows the District staff to provide landowners groundwater credits for recharging the Westside Subbasin with flood water or water the United States Bureau of Reclamation makes available pursuant to Section 215 of the Act of October 12, 1982 (96 Stat. 1263), commonly referred to as "215 Water".

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** WWD

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** WWD

Exempt Status: (check one)

E202310000054

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), §15301 & §15304
- Statutory Exemptions.

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The actions proposed by the 2023 Groundwater Recharge Program Application is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they continue ongoing operations of existing facilities within established parameters without substantial modification and minor alterations to land (Section 15301 and 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines); and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the actions proposed may have a significant effect on the environment, the actions proposed are not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines).

**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: 2/27/2023 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.

