

**ORIGINAL  
FILED**

FEB 28 2023

**KRISTINE LEE  
KINGS COUNTY CLERK**

**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 Kings  
1400 W. Lacey  
Hanford, CA 93230

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

**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)**

- 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.





**GOVERNMENT CODE**  
**SECTIONS 6103 and 27383**

6103 Neither the state nor any county, city, district, or other political subdivision, nor any public officer or body, acting in his or her official capacity on behalf of the state, or any county, city, district, or other political subdivision, shall pay or deposit any fee for the filing of any document or paper, for the performance of any official service, or for the filing of any stipulation or agreement that may constitute an appearance in any court by any other party to the stipulation or agreement. This section does not apply to civil jury fees or civil jury deposits. This section does not apply to the State Compensation Insurance Fund or where a public officer is acting with reference to private assets or obligations that have come under that officer's jurisdiction by virtue of his or her office, or where it is specifically provided otherwise. No fee shall be charged for the filing of a confession of judgment in favor of any of the public agencies named in this section.

No fee shall be charged any of the public agencies named in this section to defray the costs of reporting services by court reporters. Such fees shall be recoverable as costs as provided in Section 6103.5. *(Amended by Stats. 2008, Ch. 218, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2009.)*

27383 No fee shall be charged by the recorder for services rendered to the State, to any municipality, county in the State or other political subdivision thereof, except for making a copy of a paper or record. *(Added by Stats. 1955, Ch. 488.)*