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KERN COUNTY

MAR 27 2023

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
DEPUTY

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

From: Kern County Water Agency  
3200 Rio Mirada Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Kern County Clerk  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Project Title:** Transfer of up to 1,991 acre-feet (af) of Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District's (SWID) Water Year 2022 San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) Central Valley Project (CVP) water to the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) on behalf of Cawelo Water District (Cawelo).

**Location -- Specific:** The Agency is a SWP contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Cawelo contracts for SWP water through the Agency and is in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. SWID is a SJRRP CVP contractor located in Kern County.

**Location -- County:** Kern County.

**Description of Activity:** In 2023, SWID will transfer up to 1,991 af of its Water Year 2022 SJRRP CVP water to the Agency for delivery to Cawelo from California Aqueduct turnouts located in the Agency's service area.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** Agency (Lead Agency), DWR and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guideline 15301(b).
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves delivery water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The Agency finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing

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Notice of Environmental Document  
Posted by County Clerk on 03-27-2023  
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

- facilities and would not require any construction or grading.
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
  3. There will be no change in land use.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Lauren Bauer

**Telephone:** (661) 634-1400

**Signature:**   
**Lauren Bauer**

**Title:** Water Resources Manager

**Date:** 03/30/2023

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Signed by Applicant

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