



Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
Submitted online

From: ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY
100 North Canyons Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551
925-454-5000

To: County Clerk, County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Date: April 24, 2023

Project Title: Point of Delivery (POD) agreement between Zone 7 Water Agency, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Kern County Water Agency(KCWA) for the existing Zone 7/ Cawelo Water District Water Banking and Exchange Program

Project Location – Specific: Zone 7 service area, Cawelo Water District, and DWR facilities

Project Location – County: Alameda County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: This project consists of Zone 7 Water Agency executing a new Point of Delivery(POD) agreement with DWR and KCWA related to the Zone 7/Cawelo Water District Water Banking and Exchange Program established in 2006. An existing POD agreement is already in place (SWPAO Agreement #06010), however, the water delivery provisions of that agreement sunsetted in 2020. Zone 7 desires a new POD agreement through approximately 2035, which would cover Zone 7/ Cawelo Water District banking and exchange operations utilizing DWR facilities for the remainder of the term of the Zone 7/ Cawelo Water District Banking and Exchange Program Agreement. The banking and exchange program allows Zone 7 to send water to Cawelo Water District for storage and later recovery. There will be no construction as part of this Project, but rather this will result in continued use of DWR facilities.

Name of Public Agency Approving and Carrying Out Project: The Point of Delivery Agreement would be executed by Zone 7 Water Agency, Kern County Water Agency, and the California Department of Water Resources (through the State Water Project Analysis Office)

Project Manager: Kevin Padway. 925-454-5020

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 Section **15301. EXISTING FACILITIES**
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines as follows:

15301. EXISTING FACILITIES. Operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. No new facilities are being authorized as part of this agreement; it is anticipated to utilize existing facilities in a like manner as they have historically been used, and environmental considerations are expected to be similar as historical operations.

None of the conditions noted under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15300.2 (as revised) will occur. Furthermore, this project will not result in potential for significant environmental impacts because:

- The project consists of pursuit of an agreement with similar terms to an existing agreement. No new facilities are being authorized by the agreement, and existing facilities will continue to be used in a like manner.
- Any incremental water transported in State Water Project Facilities or other water conveyance facilities via this agreement is anticipated to be di minimis compared to the total amount of water those existing facilities convey.

Lead Agency CEQA Contact: Elke Rank **Area Code/Telephone/Ext:** 925-454-5005

Signature:	<i>Elke Rank</i>	4/24/2023
Title	Water Resources Planner Zone 7 Water Agency	