

23-050

Date Received For Filing

Notice of Exemption

Filed pursuant to Section 6103 of the Government Code

TO: Office of Planning and Research

For U.S. Mail Street Address
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 1400 Tenth St.
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Kings
Kings County Government Center
Hanford, California 93230

FROM: Kings County Board of Supervisors
Kings County Government Center
Hanford, CA 93230

PROJECT TITLE:
Castanea Project LLC Williamson Act re-enrollment

PROJECT APPLICANT:
Kings County Community Development Agency
1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230 (559) 852-2670

PROJECT LOCATION - Specific:
Assessor's Parcel Numbers 026-320-009, 026-330-001, & 026-330-074

PROJECT LOCATION - City
Kettleman City

PROJECT LOCATION - County:
Kings

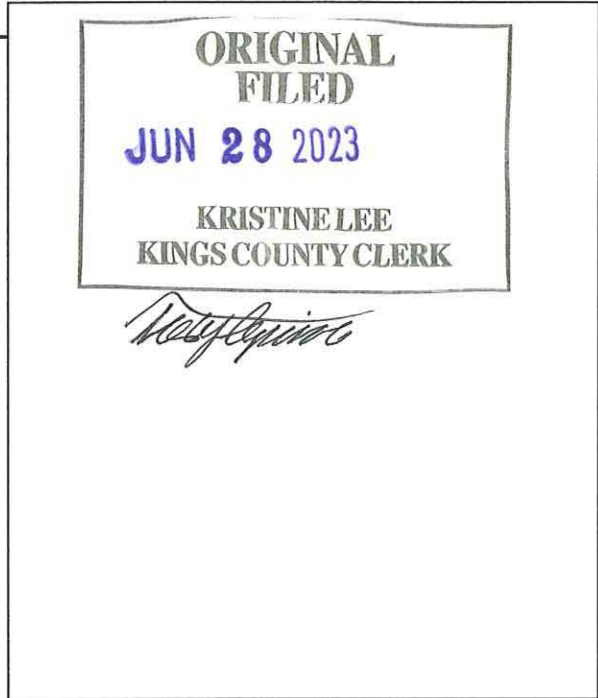
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:
Prior to December 2002, the Project Site (APNs 026-320-009, 026-330-001, & 026-330-074) was under private ownership and enrolled into the Williamson Act Program. In December 2002, Westlands Water District acquiring the Project Site in lieu of eminent domain to retire the lands from irrigated agriculture. Westlands Water District is a public entity; therefore, the Williamson Act contracts on the lands became null and void pursuant to Government Code Section 51295. On May 27, 2022, the ownership of the Project Site was transferred from Westlands Water District to Chestnut Westside, LLC, a private entity, when a Grant Deed was recorded as Document No. 2210286 in the Official Records of Kings County. On March 20, 2023, the ownership was transferred from Chestnut Westside, LLC to Castanea Project, LLC, also a private entity, when a Grant Deed was recorded as Document No. 2304227 in the Official Records of Kings County. Government Code Section 51295 states that if a public agency determines that former Williamson Act or Farmland Security Zone land that it acquired in lieu of eminent domain is not needed and is sold to a private entity, such land must be re-enrolled into the Williamson Act Program.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:
Kings County Board of Supervisors

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:
Kings County Community Development Agency

EXEMPT STATUS: (check one)
 Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268);
 Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(a));
 Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
 Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15317, Class 17
 Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:
Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Categorical Exemption Class 17 for Open Space Contracts or Easements in Section 15317 of the California Environmental Quality Act & CEQA Guidelines states, "Class 17 consists of the establishment of agricultural preserves, the making and renewing of open space contracts under the Williamson Act, or the acceptance



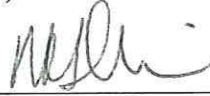
of easements or fee interests in order to maintain the open space character of the area. The cancellation of such preserves, contracts, interests, or easements is not included and will normally be an action subject to the CEQA process." The re-enrollment of this contract is in a previously established agricultural preserve and maintains the open space character of the area, and therefore qualifies for the CEQA Class 17 Categorical Exemption from environmental review.

CONTACT PERSON:

Noelle Tomlinson

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(559) 852-2697



Signature: Noelle Tomlinson

Title: Planner

Date: 6/28/2023

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.*)