

Empire Westside Irrigation District Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk
County of Kings
Kings County Gov. Center
Hanford, CA 93230

State Clearing House
State of California
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Empire Westside Irrigation District, 21990 Laurel Ave, P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 2,000 a.f. of Empire Westside Irrigation District 2023 State Water Project Water to County of Kings

Project Location – Specific: State Water Project Service Area of the County of Kings.

Project Location – City: Kettleman City **Project Location – County:** Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire Westside Irrigation District will transfer up to 2,000 a.f. of its 2023 State Water Project water to the County of Kings to a common landowner who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed by December 31, 2023. No land will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Empire Westside Irrigation District, County of Kings, California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Empire Westside Irrigation District

Exempt Status:

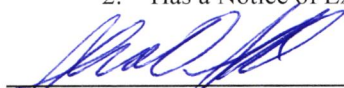
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

Reasons why project is exempt: Empire Westside Irrigation District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts, because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, no additional groundwater will be pumped, and there is no physical change associated with this project. The single-year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Sills **Telephone:** 559-923-6680

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



Signature

July 28, 2023

Date

General Manager

Title

Empire Westside Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

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Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District
Scott Sills
P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
559-352-7947

Recommendation: Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)
A. Applicable Exemption Class: 1
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt: Empire Westside Irrigation District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts. The single-year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Date: July 28, 2023



Scott Sills, General Manager