

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Water Resources
691 N. Laverne Avenue, Suite 104
Fresno, CA 93727

Project Title: Tule River Indian Tribe Emergency Water Improvement Project (Grant Agreement # 4600015434)

Project Location:

The Project includes the Tule River Indian Reservation located in Porterville, Tulare County, California. Porterville is located on the Tule River at the base of the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada and easternmost section of California's Central Valley

Project Description:

The California Department of Water Resources has executed a grant agreement (Agreement # 4600015434) through the Small Community Drought Relief Program in the amount of \$2,079,046 to the Tule River Indian Tribe of California.

This Project is comprised of improving the water infrastructure by repairing the existing surface water intake structure and replacing approximately 7,000 feet of the existing raw water distribution pipeline from the fixed surface water intake structure to their water treatment plant to provide the community with a reliable water source during droughts. The Project also includes installing a 500,000-gallon water storage tank for emergency residential water distribution and two backup generators to provide a power supply to the existing booster pumps to allow the water distribution systems to operate during electrical power outages.

The Tule River Tribe continues to experience drops in water levels in the Tule River that have caused water shortages for the reservation that ultimately serves all its residents and businesses. Due to the current drought, the lack of adequate groundwater supply and dropping water levels in the Tule River make it impossible for the community to meet current and future water demands.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Tule Indian Tribe of California

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Declared Emergency: (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project: (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
Categorical Exemption:
- Statutory Exemptions:
Water Code section 13198.2(d)

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:

Grants and direct expenditures for interim or immediate relief in response to conditions arising from a drought scenario to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies under Water Code Section 13198.2, are exempt from the requirement of Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.

Contact Person: Karen Dulik

Telephone: (559)-552-4450

Signature: *Karen Dulik* **Date:** 8/30/2023 **Title:** Environmental Program Manager

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Applicant