

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research

From: City of Santa Barbara
Planning Division
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County Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

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COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Project Title: Approval of Second Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Creating the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA)

Project Location: CCWA is a joint powers agency formed to construct, own, and operate certain facilities needed to treat, convey, and deliver State Water Project (SWP) water to its member agencies, which include the cities of Buellton, Guadalupe, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria, the Carpinteria Valley Water District, as successor in interest to the Carpinteria County Water District, the Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (individually, a Member, and collectively, the Members), all of which are located in Santa Barbara County. CCWA’s service area is coextensive with the service area boundaries of its Members, and accordingly the Project is located entirely within Santa Barbara County.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: On August 1, 1991, the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (“Agreement”) creating the CCWA was entered into by its member agencies. Pursuant to Government Code section 6509, the Agreement broadly permits the Authority to exercise any powers in the manner and according to the laws applicable to the City of Buellton. On December 12, 2017, the Members adopted a First Amendment to the Agreement. This Second Amendment would add a subsection (q) to Section 5 of the Agreement to expressly authorize CCWA to enter into contracts or take any other action necessary or convenient for the storage and use of water in a groundwater bank, reservoir, or any other system or facilities for the storage of water.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project: City of Santa Barbara

Name of Persons or Agencies Carrying Out Project: City of Santa Barbara

Exempt Status: Title 14, CCR, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15061(b)(3) [“common sense” exemption] and 15378(b)(5) [“Project” excludes organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The Second Amendment would authorize CCWA to engage in groundwater banking and other water storage activities, but it would not commit CCWA to any particular contract, agreement, or project. Accordingly, the Second Amendment would not lead to any direct or indirect change in the physical environment and therefore falls within the “common-sense” exemption. The Second Amendment also falls squarely within the carveout from the definition of “project” for organizational and administrative activities.

Agency Contact: Kaitlin Mamulski, City of Santa Barbara

Telephone: 805-897-2685

Signature: Kaitlin Mamulski
Title: Project Planner

Date: 8/31/2023

Date received by OPR _____