


NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO: County Clerk County of Riverside 2720 Gateway Drive Riverside, CA 92507</p> <p>Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222 Sacramento, CA 95814 Attn: State Clearinghouse</p>	<p>FROM: San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency 1210 Beaumont Ave. Beaumont, CA 92223 Phone: (951) 845-2577</p>
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Project Title:	Agreement For One-Time Water Exchange Between Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	Within the service areas of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (“AVEK”), and the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (“Agency”).
a) Project Location – Cities:	Agency and AVEK’s service areas
Project Location – Counties:	Los Angeles County Ventura County Kern County Riverside County
Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>On September 11, 2023, the Board of Directors for the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency approved the Agreement For One-Time Water Exchange Between Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (“Agreement”). The Agreement authorizes a one-time water transfer of up to 4,000 acre-feet of water from the Agency to AVEK.</p> <p>On October 19, 2021, Governor Newsom proclaimed that local agencies are encouraged to take actions to coordinate use of their available supplies. AVEK and Agency each have water supply contracts, directly or indirectly, with the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) for water from the State Water Project (“SWP”). These water supply contracts provide flexibility for transfers and exchanges of SWP water within SWP contractor service areas. AVEK is currently requesting up to 4000 acre-feet of SWP Table A water. The Agency is willing to release this SWP Table A water in exchange for AVEK returning to the Agency 80% of the total water delivered out of a future year’s Table A allocation.</p>

Name of Public Agency approving project:	San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Name of Person or Agency carrying out project:	San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
Exempt status: (check one)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. State type and class number:	State CEQA Guidelines, § 15301[Existing Facilities]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	State CEQA Guidelines § 15282(u)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)
Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The execution of the Agreement is statutorily exempt from substantive CEQA review under State CEQA Guidelines section 15282(u), which exempts temporary changes in the point of diversion, place of use, of purpose of use due to a transfer or exchange of water or water rights. Here, the proposed Project involves the exchange of a certain amount of the Agency's SWP Table A water for the year 2023. The Project merely changes the place of use, and does not involve construction of any additional facilities to service the Project. As the Project involves a one year exchange, it also satisfies the definition of "temporary change" pursuant to Water Code section 1728.</p> <p>Additionally, the Project is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities), which exempts from further CEQA review the operation of existing public structures, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The Project will use existing facilities and will not require the construction of additional facilities to affect the delivery of the SWP Table A water.</p> <p>Finally, the Project is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) which exempts those activities for which it can be seen with certainty that there is no potential to result in significant environmental effects. The Project involves the transfer of an existing allocation of water within existing facilities.</p>
Contact Person:	Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Telephone:	(951) 845-2577

Date: September 19, 2023



Lance Eckhart, General Manager

(Clerk Stamp Here)