

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

To: County Clerk and Recorder
Ventura County
800 S. Victoria Ave, Location #1260
Ventura, CA 93009

To: Kern County Clerk and Recorder
Kern County
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: Water Transfer Agreement between Westside Districts and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Location -- Specific: The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is located in Santa Clarita, California. The Westside Districts consist of Dudley Ridge Water District and four member units of the Kern County Water Agency (Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District, and Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa Water Storage District) are all located in Kern County, California.

Location -- Counties: Los Angeles County, Ventura County & Kern County

Description of Activity: In 2023, the Westside Districts anticipate having recharge capacity available for additional 2023 water supplies. SCV Water anticipates having surplus 2023 State Water Project (SWP) Table A supplies after meeting all local demands, recharging banking programs, and reserving a portion of supplies for SCV Water's 2024 demands.

SCV Water and the Westside Districts desire to enter into a non-permanent water transfer program whereby SCV Water would transfer up to 15,000 AF of 2023 SWP Table A to Westside Districts for use within their service area. Water will be delivered to Westside Districts via the California Aqueduct to Reach 8D-13B. The term of the agreement shall be from October 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. A maximum of up to 15,000 acre-feet of SCV Water SWP Table A shall be delivered by December 31, 2023.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), Kern County Water Agency, and Westside Districts consisting of Dudley Ridge Water District and four member units of the Kern County Water Agency (Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District, and Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa Water Storage District)(Responsible Agencies).

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities

Non-Permanent Water Transfer Agreement with Westside Districts

X Statutory Exemption. CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

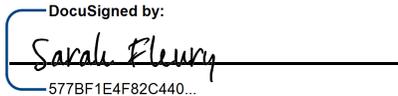
The project, aka the whole of the action, qualifies for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities as SCVWA finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility for significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.

The short-term water transfer agreement is also exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the “common sense exemption,” which provides that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Here, SCVWA finds the water transfer agreement is exempt from CEQA as “it will involve no change in the type of use or expansion of use of either Westside or SCV Water’s existing infrastructure facilities. Rather, the water transfer will involve the exercise of Westside and SCV Water’s existing right to SWP water, and the transfer of said water between Westside and SCV Water will consist merely of the continued operation of Westside and SCV Water’s existing facilities, and so “will have no significant effect on the environment.”

None of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the action.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Sarah Fleury **Telephone:** (661) 513-1282

Signature:  **Title:** Water Resources Planner **Date:** 9/20/2023

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:
