

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**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

**Project Title: Water Transfer Agreement between United Water Conservation District and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency**

**Location -- Specific:** The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is located in Santa Clarita, California. The United Water Conservation District (UWCD) is located in Ventura County, California.

**Location -- Counties:** Los Angeles County & Ventura County

**Description of Activity:** In 2023, UWCD anticipates having storage capacity available for additional 2023 water supplies in order to improve water reliability for future years. 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 UWCD desire to enter into a non-permanent water transfer program whereby SCV Water would transfer up to 10,000 AF of 2023 SWP Table A to UWCD for use within their service area. Water will be delivered to UWCD via the California Aqueduct to Reach 29 (Pyramid Lake to Piru Creek) or Reach 30 (Castaic Lake to Castiac Creek). The term of the agreement shall be from November 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. A maximum of up to 10,000 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), United Water Conservation District, member agency of Ventura County Watershed Protection District (State Water Project Contractor) who has assigned administration of its SWP water supply contract with the California Department of Water Resources to the Casitas Municipal Water District (Responsible Agencies).

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

**Reasons why activity is exempt:**

Non-Permanent Water Transfer Agreement with UWCD

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 UWCD or SCV Water's existing infrastructure facilities. Rather, the water transfer will involve the exercise of UWCD and SCV Water's existing right to SWP water, and the transfer of said water between UWCD and SCV Water will consist merely of the continued operation of UWCD 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

DocuSigned by:  
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- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

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