

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

County Clerk
County of: Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA

County Clerk/Recorder
County of: Kings
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

County Clerk
County of: Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

FROM: (Public Agency)
Alameda County Water District
43885 S. Grimmer Blvd.,
Fremont, CA 94538

Project Title: Term Sheet Agreement for Water Purchase between ACWD and the Westside Districts

Project Location-Specific: Various locations of the State Water Project (SWP) (**See Attachment 1**)

Project Location-City: Various locations of SWP (**See Attachment 1**)

Project Location-County: Various locations of SWP (**See Attachment 1**)

Project Purpose: The purpose of the *Term Sheet Agreement for Water Purchase between ACWD and the Westside Districts* (proposed project) is to execute a new term sheet agreement to allow for water purchase and transfer between Alameda County Water District (ACWD) and the Westside Districts. The Westside Districts are comprised of Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, and Dudley Ridge Water District.

This past wet winter season, combined with the Alameda County Water District's (ACWD) due diligence of water supply planning and tracking of demands, has resulted in State Water Project (SWP) allocations of 2023 water supplies exceeding both the ACWD's anticipated demands and what can be delivered for storage. Thus, the ACWD and Westside Districts have negotiated an agreement for Westside Districts to purchase up to 20,000 acre-feet (AF) of the ACWD's available 2023 SWP water supplies (also known as "Table A" supplies). Additionally, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) requires the approval for the transfer of a portion of the ACWD's SWP supplies to Westside Districts. This water transfer would use the SWP's Water Management Tools Amendment.

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Alameda County Water District (lead agency), Westside Districts (Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District), Kern County Water Agency, and the Department of Water Resources (responsible agencies).

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
- Emergency Project [Sec. 21080(b)(c)];
- Categorical Exemptions [Section 15301; Class 1 – *Existing Facilities*]
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the transfer and storage of the water under the new term sheet agreement involves the continued operation of existing water supply diversion, storage, and conveyance facilities with no expansion of use and would not expand ACWD's allocated water supply use. The construction of new, expanded, or modified facilities is not required to implement the transfer and storage and it does not result in significant environmental impacts, and does not involve unusual circumstances, a uniquely sensitive environment, or significant cumulative impacts from projects of the same type in the same place.

The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines §15301:

“Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.”

None of the exceptions under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 exist.

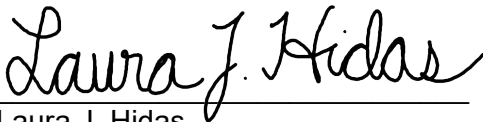
Description of Project: The new term sheet agreement allows for water purchase and for the transfer of a portion of the ACWD's SWP supplies between ACWD and the Westside Districts between November 1, 2023, and April 30, 2024.

Lead Agency: Alameda County Water District

Contact Person: Leonard Ash, Water Supply Supervisor

Telephone: (510) 668 – 6539

Approval:



Laura J. Hidas
Director of Water Resources

09/26/2023

Date:

Attachment

1. Project Location Map

ATTACHMENT 1: PROJECT LOCATION MAP

