

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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| To: | Office of Planning and Research Post Office Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812 | From: | Department of Water Resources Water Management 1516 9 th Street Sacramento, California 95814 |
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| Project Title | 2023 Common Landowner Non-Permanent Transfer of a Portion of Empire Westside Irrigation District's State Water Project Table A Water to County of Kings (SWP #23035) |
| Location- Specific | From the Delta to Reach 31A of the California Aqueduct's Coastal Branch. |
| Location- County | Kings County |
| Description of Activity | SWP #23035 approves the non-permanent Table A transfer of up to 2,000 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's (Empire) approved 2023 State Water Project (SWP) Table A water to County of Kings (Kings). The request was made on behalf of landowner Sandridge Partners, which farms in both the Empire and Kings service areas. Empire's 2023 Table A water will be delivered to the Green Valley Water District Turnout at Mile Post 3.79 in Reach 31A of California Aqueduct's Coastal Branch for subsequent delivery into Kings' service area through December 31, 2023. |
| Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity | Empire (lead agency), Kings, and the Department of Water Resources of the State of California (responsible agency) |
| Exempt Status | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729 |
| Reasons why activity is exempt | a. SWP long-term water supply contracts include provisions for delivery within SWP place of use, including transfers between SWP contractors. b. No construction is required to implement the proposed delivery. c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed delivery. d. There will be no change in land use. |
| Responsible Agency Contact Person | Patrick Luzuriaga Telephone: 916-820-7778 |

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| <p>Signature:</p> <p><i>John Leahigh</i></p> <hr/> <p>John Leahigh Assistant Division Manager, Water Management Division of Operations and Maintenance State Water Project</p> | <p>Date:</p> <p>9/25/2023</p> <hr/> |
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