

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

 □ County Clerk/County Recorder
 County of Fresno
 P.O. Box 766
 Fresno, CA 93712

From: □ Westlands Water District
 P.O. Box 6056
 Fresno, CA 93703

Project Title: Modifying the Rules and Regulations that Support the Implementation of the Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District, Serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWD)

Project Location – Specific: District-wide, located in western Fresno and Kings Counties. See Figure 1.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno, Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Rules and Regulations Sections adopted by the WWD support implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan's Projects and Management Actions. The modifications to the Rules and Regulations are consistent with the Westside Subbasin GSP, which allows the District to modify the Groundwater Allocation Program provided that the Groundwater Allocation Program is reasonably likely to achieve its intended objectives and support the sustainability goal for the Westside Subbasin

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: WWD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: WWD

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), §15307 & §15308, and 15378.
- Statutory Exemptions. Water Code §10728.6

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Rules and Regulations were previously adopted by the WWD pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on August 17, 2021, and action was found to be statutorily and categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA").

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Water Code §10728.6 because the modifications to Rules and Regulations adopted on September 19, 2023 will not have any significant impact on the environment, the Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3). WWD, as authorized by the SGMA, approved the Project for the protection of natural resources and the environment, which is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15307, §15308, and §15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Russ Freeman

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6241

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? YES NO

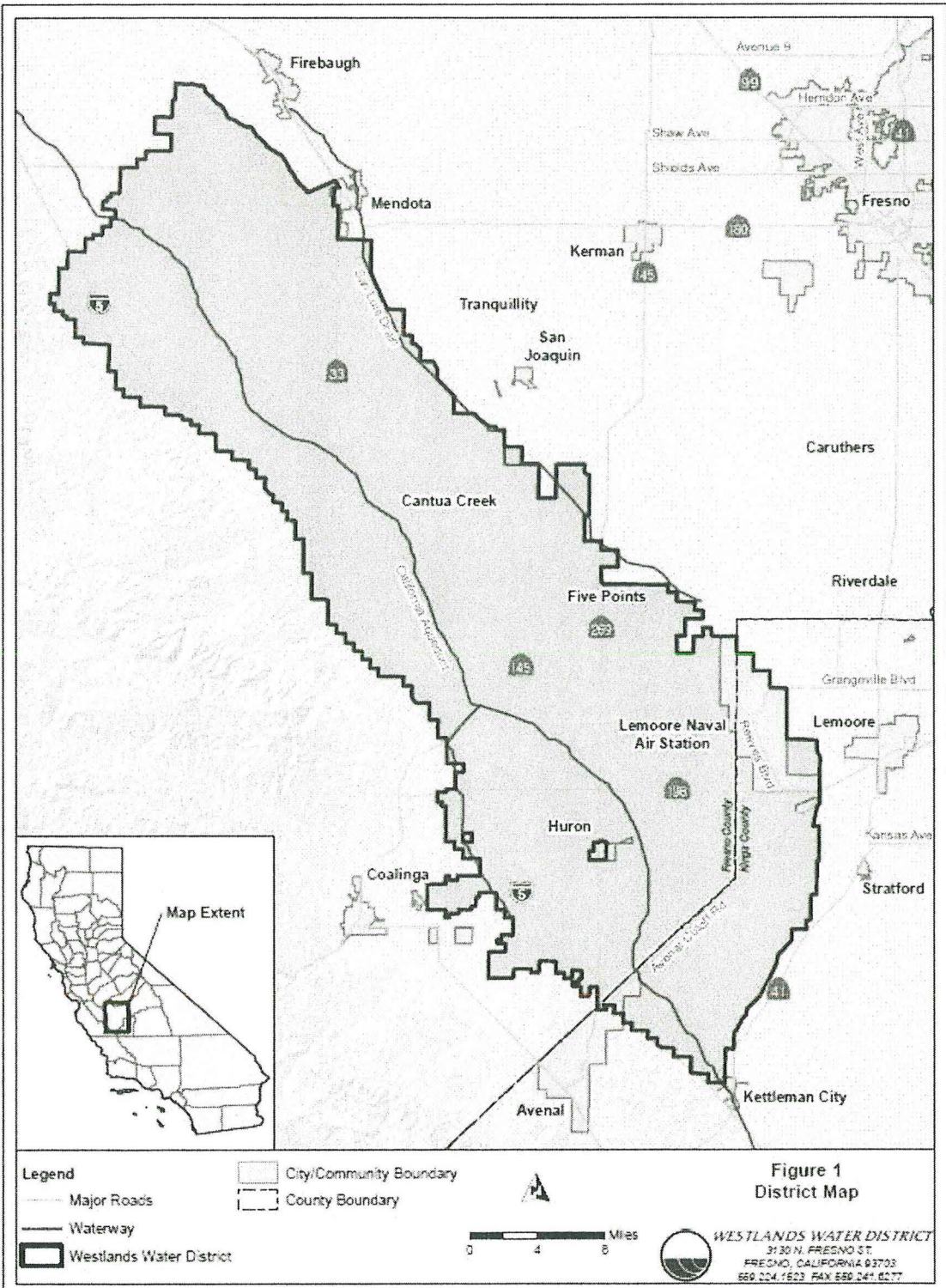
Signature:  Date: 9/22/2023 Title: Deputy General Manager Resources

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.



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