

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
- County Clerk/County Recorder
County of Kings
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230
- From:** Westlands Water District
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703

Project Title: Article 2 Amendments Incorporating Criteria that Provides for Continued Benefits to Modified Agricultural Lands

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: Areas of Fresno and Kings County

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno and Kings County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

On August 19, 2023, the District Board approved an Amendment to Article 2 amending the criteria for continued benefits to modified agricultural lands. The Amendment, eliminating the requirement that a landowner, or close affiliate, continue to own an equivalent or greater Eligible Cropland acreage to maintain Eligible Cropland status on land that is temporarily converted to non-agricultural use, provided all other criteria are met.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Westlands Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268).
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(a)).
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(b)(c)).
- Categorical Exemptions. (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15061(b)(3), 15301).
- Statutory Exemptions. (Sec. 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15269(c)).

Reasons why project is exempt:

The revision of Article 2 is categorically exempt from CEQA, as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15061, with reference to Section 15061(b)(3), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the revision of Article 2 may have a significant effect on the environment, and Sections 15300 through 15333, with reference to Section 15301, because it involves the continued operation of existing facilities without significant expansion of use and there is not a reasonable possibility that the revision will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.


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: 09/22/2023 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.

