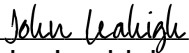


NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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	Short-term water transfer and storage agreement between the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Kern County Water Agency (SWP #23024)
Location- Specific	From the Delta to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWDSC) turnout(s) located on the California Aqueduct; Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency's (AVEK) turnout(s) at Reaches 18 through 22; and Kern County Water Agency's (KCWA) turnout(s) at Reach 12E
Location- County	Fresno, Kern, Madera, Merced, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Stanislaus, and Ventura Counties
Description of Activity	The project is a change in point of delivery of up to 20,000 acre-feet of AVEK's approved State Water Project (SWP) Table A water to Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) Water Bank within Kern County for storage for a period of up to 12 months from the effective date and future recovery of the stored water for use in AVEK's service area by December 31, 2026. Additionally, upon delivery of AVEK's Table A Water into the IRWD Water Bank, one-half (50 percent) of AVEK's Table A Water, up to 10,000 acre-feet, will be transferred to MWDSC, on behalf of IRWD, for storage and recovery under SWP Agreement #23012.
Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity	AVEK (lead agency), MWDSC, KCWA, and DWR (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 Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729
Reasons why activity is exempt	<p>a. SWP long-term water supply contracts allow temporary storage of SWP water by SWP contractors in groundwater banking facilities and transfer of SWP water between SWP contractors, subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>b. No construction is required to implement the proposed delivery, storage and recovery of water.</p> <p>c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed delivery, storage and recovery of water.</p>

	d. There will be no change in land use.
Responsible Agency Contact Person	Patrick Luzuriaga Telephone: 916-820-7778
Signature:  _____ John Leahigh Assistant Division Manager, Water Management Division of Operations and Maintenance State Water Project	Date: 10/2/2023 _____