

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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| <b>To:</b> | Office of Planning and Research<br>Post Office Box 3044<br>Sacramento, California 95812 | <b>From:</b> | Department of Water Resources<br>Water Management<br>1516 9 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Sacramento, California 95814 |
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| <b>Project Title</b>  | Conveyance of Westlands Water District's Central Valley Project Water to Kern County Water Agency for Storage in Semitropic Water Storage District's Groundwater Banking Program (SWP #23027)  |
| <b>Location- Specific</b>                                       | From O'Neill Forebay to Kern County Water Agency's turnout(s) in Reaches 10A through 13B of the California Aqueduct, and from the Delta to O'Neill Forebay   |
| <b>Location- County</b>   | Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties   |
| <b>Description of Activity</b>                                  | This project is for the conveyance of up to 57,000 acre-feet of Westlands Water District's (WWD) Central Valley Project (CVP) water (Non-Project Water) to Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) under Article 55 of its Water Supply Contract, on behalf of Poso Creek, LLC and Harris Farms, for storage in Semitropic Water Storage District's (Semitropic) Groundwater Banking Program and for the recovery of such water, minus applicable losses, by WWD by December 31, 2033. Poso Creek, LLC and Harris Farms both own land in KCWA's and WWD's service areas. |
| <b>Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying out Activity</b> | KCWA, WWD, DWR, Reclamation  |
| <b>Exempt Status</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities<br><input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729  |
| <b>Reasons why activity is exempt</b>                           | a. State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for conveyance of non-project water to SWP contractors.<br>b. The project is a water management operation using only existing facilities.<br>c. The project will not support new development or a change in land use.<br>d. The project does not establish a new permanent source of water supply.  |
| <b>Responsible Agency Contact Person</b>                        | Patrick Luzuriaga<br>Telephone: 916-820-7778   |

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| <p>Signature:</p> <p><i>John Leahigh</i></p> <hr/> <p>John Leahigh<br/>Assistant Division Manager, Water Management<br/>Division of Operations and Maintenance<br/>State Water Project</p> | <p>Date:</p> <p>10/6/2023</p> <hr/> |
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