

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of San Bernardino 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415</p> <p>Los Angeles County Clerk 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Room 1201 Norwalk, CA 90650</p> <p>Kern County Clerk 1115 Truxtun Ave., 1st Floor Bakersfield, CA 93301</p> <p>Ventura County Clerk Hall of Administration, Main Plaza 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009-1260</p> <p>Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222 Sacramento, CA 95814 Attn: State Clearinghouse</p>	<p>FROM: (Lead Agency): Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency P.O. Box 3880 24116 Crest Forest Drive Crestline, CA 92325 Phone: (909) 338-1779</p>
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1. Project Title:	2023/2024 Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency Water Transfer
2. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	Within the service areas of Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency (San Bernardino County) and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (Kern County, Ventura County and Los Angeles County).
3. (a) Project Location – City:	Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency service areas
(b) Project Location – County:	San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Los Angeles Counties
4. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>On December 14, 2023, the Board of Directors of Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency (“CLAWA”) approved the execution of the Water Transfer Agreement (“Agreement”) with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (“AVEK”). The Agreement allows for the delivery of up to 3,000 acre-feet (“AF”) of Table A State Water Project (“SWP”) water from CLAWA to AVEK in Calendar Year 2023 with AVEK returning 1,000 AF less than that quantity of water to CLAWA in 2024 (collectively, “Project”).</p> <p>Presently, CLAWA has a 2023 allocation of SWP water that it will not be able to use in 2023 and will not be able to carry over in SWP facilities into 2024. In order to prevent a loss of CLAWA water due to unuse and a limitation on the quantity CLAWA water that CLAWA may carry over in SWP facilities from its 2023 allocation under its Water Supply Contract with the Department of Water Resources, CLAWA desires to deliver a portion of its unused water to AVEK. In return, CLAWA will have the opportunity to receive from AVEK, in 2024, a portion of the total quantity of water transferred by CLAWA to AVEK in 2023.</p>

5.	Name of Public Agency approving project:	Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
6.	Name of Person or Agency carrying out project:	Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
7.	Exempt status: (check one)	
	(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial project.
	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	Not a project.
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Project.
	(d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption. State CEQA Guidelines § 15301 [Existing Facilities]
	(e) <input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency.
	(f) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption. State CEQA Guidelines § 15282(u)
	(g) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation: The Project is also exempt under State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the Project may have a significant impact on the environment. The Project is merely an exchange of water. No physical facilities will be constructed to produce or transport water because all such required facilities already exist. In addition, no new water production or transportation capacity is created by the Project.
8.	Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The execution of the Agreement effectuating the transfer and exchange of SWP Water from the CLAWA to the AVEK is statutorily exempt from substantive CEQA review under State CEQA Guidelines section 15282(u), which exempts temporary changes in the point of diversion, place of use, of purpose of use due to a transfer or exchange of water or water rights. Here, the Project involves the exchange of a certain amount of CLAWA's SWP water for the year 2023 with AVEK returning a portion of said water. The Project merely changes the delivery location, and does not involve construction of any additional facilities to service the water transfer. As the Project involves a one year exchange, it also satisfies the definition of "temporary change" pursuant to Water Code section 1728.</p> <p>Additionally, the Project is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities), which exempts from further CEQA review the operation of existing public structures, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The Project will use existing facilities and will not require the construction of additional facilities to affect the delivery of water.</p>
9.	Contact Person:	Jennifer A. Spindler, General Manager
	Telephone:	(909) 338-1779

Dated: December 14, 2023


 Jennifer A. Spindler
 General Manager