

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
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 5199
Fresno, CA 93755

Project Title: Westlands Water District Temporary Water Transfer to San Luis Water District and Panoche Water District.

Project Location – Specific: Within the boundaries of Westlands Water District, San Luis Water District and Panoche Water District in Fresno County.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno

Description of Project:

The project is the temporary transfer a combined total of up to 721 acre-feet (AF) of water, from Westlands Water District (WWD) to San Luis Water District and Panoche Water District, for the benefit of mutual water users. WWD will temporarily transfer up to 721 AF of water from its WWD Central Valley Project Repayment Contract which will be made available in the San Luis Reservoir, for delivery through existing facilities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Westlands Water District.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District, San Luis Water District, and Panoche Water District.

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 Exemption. (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemptions.

Reasons why project is exempt:

Westlands Water District has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it continues ongoing operations of existing facilities within established parameters without substantial modification (Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines); and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the water transfer may have a significant effect on the environment, the water transfer is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) 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: *Russ Freeman* Date: 12/20/2023 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.