

**Empire West Side Irrigation District  
Notice of Exemption**

**To:** County Clerk   State Clearing House  
County of Kings   State of California  
Kings County Gov. Center                                 1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hanford, CA 93230   Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Empire West Side Irrigation District, 21990 Laurel Ave, P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266

**Project Title:** Common Landowner Transfer of up to 3,000 a.f. of Empire West Side Irrigation District  
2024 State Water Project Water to County of Kings

**Project Location – Specific:** State Water Project Service Area of the County of Kings.

**Project Location – City:** Kettleman City                                 **Project Location – County:** Kings

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** Empire West Side Irrigation District will transfer up to 3,000 a.f. of its 2024 State Water Project water to the County of Kings to a common landowner, who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed by December 31, 2024. No land will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Empire West Side Irrigation District, County of Kings,  
California Department of Water Resources

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Empire West Side Irrigation District

**Exempt Status:**

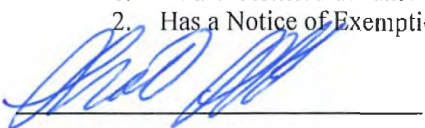
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Empire West Side Irrigation District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts, because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, no additional groundwater will be pumped, and there is no physical change associated with this project. The single-year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Scott Sills                                 **Telephone:** 559-923-6800

**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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

July 16, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

General Manager  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

## Empire West Side Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

**Project Title:** Common Landowner Transfer of up to 3,000 a.f. of Empire West Side Irrigation District 2024 State Water Project Water to County of Kings

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** Empire West Side Irrigation District will transfer up to 3,000 a.f. of its 2024 State Water Project water to the County of Kings to a common landowner, who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed by December 31, 2024. No land will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

**Entity or Person Undertaking Project:** Empire West Side Irrigation District  
Scott Sills  
P.O. Box 66  
Stratford, CA 93266  
559-352-7947

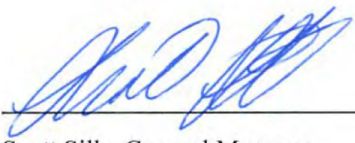
**Recommendation:** Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)  
A. Applicable Exemption Class: I
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

**Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt:** Empire West Side Irrigation District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts. The single-year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

**Name of Lead Agency:** Empire West Side Irrigation District

**Date:** July 16, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Sills, General Manager