



E202410000233  
**County of Fresno**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING  
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

- TO:  Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814
- County Clerk, County of Fresno  
2221 Kern Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

**FILED**  
AUG 05 2024 TIME 4:06pm  
By [Signature] FRESNO COUNTY CLERK DEPUTY

For County Clerk's Stamp

**FROM:** Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning  
Development Services and Capital Projects Division  
2220 Tulare Street (corner of Tulare and "M") Suite "A", Fresno, CA 93721

**PROJECT TITLE:** Environmental Review No. 8598 –Groundwater Recharge Facility

**PROJECT APPLICANT/SPONSOR:** Fresno County Design Division

**PROJECT LOCATION – COUNTY:** The project site is located on the northeast corner of E. Elkhorn Ave. and CA Highway 41, located 3.75-miles southeast from the Unincorporated Community of Caruthers. (042-043-51ST)(500 E. Elkhorn Ave.) (Sup. Dist. 4).

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** The proposed Project consists of the construction of an approximately 57-acre recharge facility in Fresno County on a site owned by the County of Fresno. Dirt excavated from the area will be stockpiled on-site. Water will be delivered to the recharge area through a new on-site conveyance channel that will be served by a new turnout from the Liberty Canal. The site historically was farmed as part of the former Elkhorn Juvenile Detention Facility.

The land has been open for several years but has been regularly disked and maintained. The source of the water will be excess water on the Kings River, helping to relieve flooding conditions in the Kings River area and downstream in above average water years. Fresno County is a member of the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NFKGSA) along with 14 other public or private entities.

Fresno County represents a white area or other non-represented land within the GSA, which is in a high priority, critically over drafted subbasin with multiple Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).

The Project will help mitigate groundwater overdraft conditions impacted by drought and help the GSA achieve groundwater sustainability.

**NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:** Fresno County Board of Supervisors

**NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** Fresno County Public Works and Planning, Current Planning, Contact: David Randall, Senior Planner (559) 600- 4052.

**EXEMPT STATUS:** Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13.

**REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Based upon the unpredictable and severe circumstances created by the state's increasingly hotter and drier climate, Governor Newsom enacted Executive Order N-7-22 (EO 13) to suspend the California Environmental Quality Act for groundwater recharge projects that capture available water for the purposes of recharging groundwater basins through the application on open and working lands to help mitigate drought impacts on groundwater conditions. This will not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This project was Specifically confirmed by the State Department of Water Resources as consistent with the Executive Order N-7-22.

E202410000233

**LEAD AGENCY**

**CONTACT PERSON:** David Randall

**AREA CODE/TELEPHONE:** (559) 600-4052

**If filed by the 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: \_\_\_\_\_

David Randall, Senior Planner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7/16/24

- Signed by Lead Agency    Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed by Applicant

G:\4360Devs&PIn\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\Environmental\Exemptions - Exclusions - CE(N)ST\8000-8999\ER 8598- Groundwater Recharge Project (Elkhorn Correctional Facility Facility\ER 8598 NOE.docx