

**Notice of Exemption**

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

**From:** Central Coast Water Authority  
255 Industrial Way  
Buellton, CA 93427

Clerk of the Board  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Project Title:** Temporary Warren Act Contract No. 24-WC-20-6310 between Central Coast Water Authority and United States Bureau of Reclamation

**Location – Specific:** United States Bureau of Reclamation’s (“Reclamation”) existing Cachuma Project facilities (i.e., Bradbury Dam and Lake Cachuma, Tecolote Tunnel, and the South Coast Conduit), the Lower Santa Ynez River below Bradbury Dam, and the service areas of Central Coast Water Authority’s South Coast Participants (Carpinteria Valley Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company, Morehart Land Co., and Raytheon Systems Co.).

**Location – County:** Santa Barbara County

**Description of Activity:** Approval of a short-term Warren Act Contract between Central Coast Water Authority (“CCWA”) and Reclamation, Contract No. 24-WC-20-6310 (the “Temporary Warren Act Contract”). The Temporary Warren Act Contract is necessary to continue the annual introduction, storage, and conveyance of up to 13,750 acre-feet of water acquired by or available to CCWA from or through the State Water Project into Cachuma Project facilities for delivery to CCWA’s South Coast Participants beyond September 30, 2024 when CCWA’s existing Warren Act Contract (Contract No. 22-WC-20-5954) expires. The term of the Temporary Warren Act Contract will extend through June 14, 2027.

**Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** Central Coast Water Authority

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption (Not a Project Under CEQA)

**Reasons why activity is exempt:**

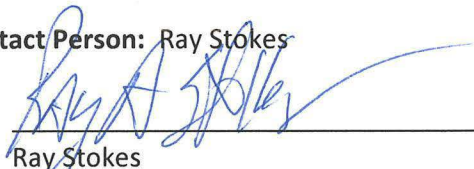
CEQA Guidelines section 15301 (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15301 [Class 1 exemption]) sets forth an exemption from CEQA for the operation and permitting of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. CEQA Guidelines section 15304 (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15304 [Class 4 exemption]) further provides an exemption for "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes." The Temporary Warren Act Contract is exempt because it will continue to allow the annual introduction, storage, and conveyance of up to 13,750 acre-feet of water acquired by or available to CCWA from or through the SWP into Cachuma Project facilities for delivery to the CCWA South Coast Participants and will therefore not expand the use of Cachuma Project facilities beyond that now permitted by CCWA's existing Warren Act Contract.

None of the exceptions to use of an exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply and the Temporary Warren Act Contract will not have a significant impact on the environment where it will continue to allow the annual introduction, storage, and conveyance of the same quantity of water available to CCWA from or through the SWP into Cachuma Project facilities as has been authorized for the last 27 years. Under the Temporary Warren Act Contract, CCWA water would continue to be introduced and conveyed through Cachuma Project facilities (i.e., Bradbury Dam outlet works, Stilling Basin, Lake Cachuma, North Intake of the Tecolote Tunnel, and the South Coast Conduit) to the CCWA Participants located along the South Coast Conduit. No modifications to existing infrastructure or construction would occur.

**Agency Contact Person:** Ray Stokes

**Telephone:** (805) 688-2292

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



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

9-13-24

**Title:** Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: \_\_\_\_\_