

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

To: Kern County Clerk and Recorder
Kern County
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: Agreement for a Water Exchange between Semitropic Water Storage District and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Location -- Specific: The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) is located in Santa Clarita, California and Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic) and Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) are located in Kern County, California.

Location -- Counties: Los Angeles County and Kern County

Description of Activity: In 2024, SCVWA desires to avoid possible loss of said water including possible spill of carryover water from San Luis Reservoir. Semitropic anticipates having sufficient capacity available in its existing water banking and management programs to utilize SCVWA's State Water Project (SWP) supplies.

Semitropic and SCVWA desire to enter into a 2:1 exchange program, being processed as two separate transfers, whereby for every 2 acre-feet of SWP Article 56 Carryover Water transferred to Semitropic by SCVWA (transfer in San Luis Reservoir and water will be delivered in California Aqueduct to Reach 9-13A), Semitropic shall return 1 acre-foot of SWP water to SCVWA (point of delivery Reach 30). The term of the agreement shall be from November 1, 2024, through December 31, 2034. A maximum of up to 7,500 acre-feet of SCVWA SWP Article 56 Carryover Water shall be transferred by December 31, 2024. Semitropic shall return its agreed upon portion of water no later than December 31, 2034.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), Semitropic Water Storage District, Kern County Water Agency.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

The project, aka the whole of the action, qualifies for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities as SCVWA finds that approval of the proposed water exchange has no possibility for significant effect on the environment for the following reasons: Agreement for Water Exchange between Semitropic Water Storage District and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

1. The proposed action consists of a two-part water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.

The water exchange agreement is also exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense exemption," which provides that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Here, SCVWA finds the water exchange agreement is exempt from CEQA as "it will involve no change in the type of use or expansion of use of either Semitropic or SCV Water's existing infrastructure facilities. Rather, the water exchange will involve the exercise of Semitropic and SCV Water's existing right to SWP water, and the transfer of said water between Semitropic and SCV Water will consist merely of the continued operation of Semitropic and SCV Water's existing facilities, and so "will have no significant effect on the environment."

None of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the action.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rick Vasilopoulos **Telephone:** (661) 705-7912

Signature:  **Title:** WATER RESOURCES
PLANNER **Date:** 11/7/24

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:
