

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Plumas, Sierra

From: (Public Agency): Water Resources Control Bd
Div of Water Rights

PO Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

(Address)

Project Title: Temporary Permit Application T033461

Project Applicant: Sierra Valley Groundwater Maangement District

Project Location - Specific:

POD#1: 39.81918/ -120.17844 POD#2: 39.6743156/ -120.2112672

Project Location - City: Vinton (POD#1) and Loyalton (POD#2) Project Location - County: Plumas (POD#1) and Sierra (POD#2)

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Project is a non-construction project seeking approval to divert to underground storage water within the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District service area, from Little Last Chance Creek (POD #1) and Staverville Creek (POD#2), in the late winter and early spring 2025 to supplement irrigation, improve domestic supplies and for fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Valley Groundwater Maangement 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. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

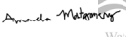
Governor Gavin Newsom's March 28, 2022, Executive Order (EO) N-7-22 concluded that strict compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) would prevent, hinder or delay the mitigation of the effects of significant precipitation. Item 12 of EO N-7-22 requires the State Water Board to prioritize temporary water right permits to accelerate approvals for projects that enhance the ability of a local or state agency to capture high runoff events for local storage or recharge, consistent with water rights priorities and protections for fish and wildlife. This item suspends CEQA and the regulations adopted pursuant to it, to the extent that CEQA would otherwise apply to actions taken by state agencies for the purposes of carrying out this directive. This temporary permit will enhance the ability of Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District to capture high runoff events for underground storage and groundwater recharge, consistent with water rights priorities and protections for fish and wildlife. Water stored underground under the permit will be used for domestic supplies, irrigation, and fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement within the service area of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District. Accordingly, CEQA is suspended to the extent that it would otherwise apply to this temporary permit.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Benjamin McCovery Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-327-8683

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:  Amanda Montgomery Date: 1/23/2025 Title: Environmental Program Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____