



**Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District  
Finding of Exemption**

**Project Title:** Conveyance of up to 82,204 acre-feet of Cross Valley Water and San Joaquin River Restoration Program Recapture water

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** TLBWSD will take delivery of up to 82,204 acre-feet of Cross Valley Water (CV) and San Joaquin River Restoration Program Recapture Water (Restoration Water) under Article 55 of our State Water Supply Contract. The CV and Restoration water from Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) and Pixley Irrigation District (PIX) which will be conveyed through banks pumping plant under Article 55 using State power. The water will be conveyed through the California Aqueduct and delivered to TLBWSD in reaches 8C and 8D. In exchange, a comparable amount of local river supplies will be delivered to LTRID and PIX. Any CV and Restoration Water that is not delivered will be stored in San Luis Reservoir on the State side on behalf of TLBWSD.

**Entity or Person Undertaking Project:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District  
Cameron Batth  
1001 Chase Avenue  
Corcoran, CA 93212  
559-992-4127

**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: 1
- 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:** TLBWSD has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts since absent the exchange TLBWSD would deliver its local supplies for use on District lands. The single year transfer by a Permittee or Licensee 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).

A Final Environmental Assessment titled: *Lower Tule River Irrigation District/Pixley Irrigation District Multiyear Cross Valley Water Transfer, Exchange, and Banking Program (CGB-FONSI-2021-055)* have been published by the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

**Name of Lead Agency:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Date: January 24, 2025

  
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Jacob Westra, General Manager