

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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

From: California Department of Water Resources
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Title: DWR Extreme Climate Telemetry Program Friant-Kern (MP 98, MP 105, & MP 112)
Continuous Global Navigation Satellite System and Monitoring Well Installations

Project Location City & County: Tulare County

Project Location – Specific: Three proposed locations along the Friant-Kern Canal (MP98, MP105, & MP112).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The California Department of Water Resources is proposing to install new multi-completion groundwater elevation monitoring wells and new continuously operating Global Navigation Satellite System stations at three sites in Tulare County. Groundwater elevation and water quality data collected from monitoring wells plays an important role in groundwater management under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption: 15306, Information Collection (Class 6)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: These three monitoring wells and stations would be incorporated into the larger basin groundwater elevation monitoring program to assess groundwater conditions. Proposed activities will not impact environmental resources, including scenic resources, cultural resources, or special status species. The Project would not result in any significant impacts to the environment. Categorical Exemption 15306 (Information Collection) applies.

DWR Contact Person: Tad Bedegrew

Telephone: 916-425-4394

Signed by Lead Agency

Name: Tad Bedegrew **Signature:** *Tad Bedegrew* **Date:** 1/24/2025

Title: Sr. Engineering Geologist