

Empire West Side Irrigation District Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk State Clearing House
County of Kern State of California
1115 Truxton Avenue 1400 10th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301 Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Empire West Side Irrigation District, 21990 Laurel Ave, P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of 650 AF of Empire West Side Irrigation District 2024 State Water Project Carryover Water to Kern County Water Agency.

Project Location – Specific: Kern County Water Agency Service Area

Project Location – City: Bakersfield **Project Location – County:** Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (District) will transfer 650 AF of its 2024 State Water Project Carryover Water to Kern County Water Agency for Sandridge Partners, who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2025. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District, Kern County Water Agency, and the California Department of Water Resources.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Exempt Status:

- 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 (Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

Reasons why project is exempt: The District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, and there is no physical change associated with this project. The single year transfer 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).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Sills **Telephone:** 559-923-6680

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

<i>Scott Sills</i> _____ Scott Sills	March 27, 2025 _____ Date	General Manager _____ Title
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Empire West Side Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of 650 AF of Empire West Side Irrigation District 2024 State Water Project Carryover Water to Kern County Water Agency.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (District) will transfer 650 AF of its 2024 State Water Project Carryover Water to Kern County Water Agency for Sandridge Partners, who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2025. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District
Scott Sills
P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
559-352-7947

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: The District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts. The single year transfer 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).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Scott Sills

Date: March 27, 2025

Scott Sills, General Manager