

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Tulare County Clerk
221 S. Mooney Blvd, Rm 105
Visalia, CA 93291

From:
Tri-County Water Authority
944 Whitley Ave., Suite E
Corcoran, CA 93212

Kings County Clerk/Recorder
Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Online Submittal via CEQA Submit

Project Title: Policy and Procedures for Groundwater Extraction Allocation (Tule Subbasin - Southeast Management Area) (Project)

Project Location: Tule Subbasin – Kings and Tulare County

Name of Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): Tri-County Water Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tri-County Water Authority

Project Description: The Project is the adoption of a policy and procedures for groundwater extraction allocation for the Tule Subbasin – Southeast Management Area. The Project's provisions are management actions for sustainable management of the Tule Subbasin and do not determine or alter water rights under common law or any provision of law. The primary goal of the Project is to achieve sustainability of the limited natural groundwater resource of the Tule Subbasin in order to allow sustainable, reasonable and beneficial uses of this resource for agriculture and other uses. The Project promotes continued agricultural operations through its regulations in order to sustainability manage the finite natural groundwater resources in attempts to assure the availability of this resource in the long-term.

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 Exemptions: Class 7, Guidelines § 15307 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources; and Class 8, Guidelines § 15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
 Common Sense Exemption, Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)
 Statutory Exemption
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Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Tri-County Water Authority (TCWA) reviewed the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 categorical exemption (Class 7 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) applies to actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.


CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 categorical exemption (Class 8 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) applies to actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) provides that where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is exempt from CEQA.

TCWA reviewed the Project and determined that it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 15307 and 15308. TWCA’s Board of Directors exercised its flexible management authority to ensure that all undesirable results of the Tule Subbasin, including subsidence, overdraft and lowering of groundwater levels are mitigated within the sustainability timeframe set forth in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code § 10720 et seq.).

TCWA reviewed the Project and determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 were applicable.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tri-County Water Authority
Telephone: (559) 762-7240
Email: staci@tcwater.org


Staci Wilkins
Board Secretary
Tri-County Water Authority

5/1/2025
Date