

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

Lead Agency/Applicant Name:
Semitropic Water Storage District
1101 Central Ave., Wasco CA 93280-0877

County Clerk
County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

(Address)

County Clerk
County of Tulare
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 103
Visalia, CA 93291-4593

Project Title: Water Transfer/Exchange Agreement with Kern-Tulare Water District

Project Location – County: Kern; Tulare.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of the Project is for Kern-Tulare Water District (KTWD) and Semitropic Water Storage District (District) to enter into an agreement for transfer of up to 15,000 acre-feet of 2018-2019 Central Valley Project South of Delta water to the District at its California Aqueduct turnouts or to the Kern Water Bank on behalf of the District. The District, lead agency for the Project, would take delivery of the water when available, currently estimated to be no later than February 28, 2019. The District would store the water in its existing Semitropic groundwater bank, and return half the water to KTWD at a mutually agreeable time and location in Kern County by exchange or other means. The Project would use existing water facilities and not involve any construction.

Beneficiaries of the project are landowners and water users within the boundaries of the District And KTWD.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District; Kern-Tulare Water District.

Exempt Status:

- Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301.
- Statutory Exemptions. Water Code, Section 1729.
- The "common sense" exemption: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3).

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Lead Agency has determined that the Project is exempt from further compliance with CEQA for the following reasons:

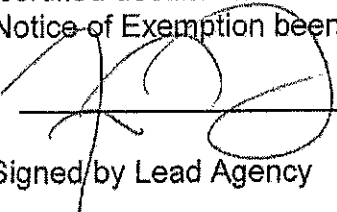
The District believes the Project including activities to implement same are covered by existing environmental documents including those certified for the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, which allows for banking and exchange programs between the Parties under the 25-Year Groundwater Banking, Transfer, and Exchange Program. Furthermore, the District has determined that the Project does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and that to the extent such activities could possibly constitute a project, the project is exempt under CEQA. This determination is based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing significant environmental impacts, and that where (as here) 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 not subject to CEQA. Furthermore, the District has determined Project has no possibility for significant effect on the environment because, (i) the Project will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading, (ii) the Project does not create, require or constitute a new permanent source of water supply, and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts, (iii) there will be no land use changes as a result of the Project, and (iv) no new lands will be brought into production as a consequence of transfer water deliveries. Additionally, the District has determined that the delivery, storage and return of transfer water will utilize the operation of existing facilities, and there will be no expansion of use beyond that existing as of the date of this Agreement. Therefore, the Class 1 existing facilities exemption (CEQA Guidelines section 15301), and the common sense exemption apply (CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)). Moreover, water transfers occurring for a period of one year or less are statutorily exempt from CEQA (Water Code section 1729).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jason Gianquinto, General Manager
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 758-5113

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: 

Date: 10 Jan 2019 Title: General Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 17 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE