

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019038644

Appendix E

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

☒ County Clerk
County of Kings
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230

From: ☒ Westlands Water District
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703

FILED

MAR 22 2019

KRISTINE LEE
KINGS COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY

Project Title: Westlands Water District's Execution of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Agreement for Acquisition of water by the United States, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, and Madera Irrigation District from the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority.

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: Central Valley Project (CVP) Contractor service areas of Fresno and Kings Counties within the boundaries of Westlands Water District.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno and Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is the execution of the Activity Agreement with San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) for transfer of up to 80,000 acre feet per year from the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority for the benefit of Westlands Water District (District), its landowners, and water users. The SLDMWA is a party to the multiple party agreement and as such is a recipient of the District's approval (Pub Resources Code §§21065, 21167.6.5). The Project is entirely administrative in scope.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Westlands Water District, Fresno County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ 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. State type and section number: Review for Exemption, § 15061(b)(3) and § 15301
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Ongoing Project, § 15261

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15261, because it is merely a

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continuation of a project approved, funded and fully operated prior to November 23, 1970 and no modification or alteration in the Central Valley Project or the amount of water delivered is proposed.

The project is also exempt under 14 CCR, 15061(b)(3), 15301 and 15304 as it provides for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The Project is wholly administrative in scope as the project involves no construction, alteration, or expansion of an existing use, and does not have the potential for causing significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Russ Freeman

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6241

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: Russ Freeman Date: 3/22/19 Title: Deputy GM-Resources

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 27 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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