

Notice of Exemption

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To: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From: Central Coast Water Authority
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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Clerk of the Board
San Bernardino County
385 N Arrowhead Ave # 2
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Project Title: Central Coast Water Authority and Mojave Water Agency 2019 Short Term Water Exchange Program

Location – Specific: Existing State Water Project (SWP) facilities to existing turnouts in Santa Barbara and San Bernardino Counties. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. The SWP is owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), headquartered in Sacramento, California. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Santa Barbara) contracts with DWR for the delivery of SWP water to Santa Barbara County. The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has assumed responsibility for Santa Barbara's SWP contract. CCWA is headquartered in Santa Barbara County and CCWA's service area is located in Santa Barbara County. The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) contracts with DWR for the delivery of SWP water to San Bernardino County. MWA is headquartered in San Bernardino County and MWA's service area is in San Bernardino County.

Location – County: Santa Barbara and San Bernardino Counties

Description of Activity: Due to prolonged drought conditions and low SWP "Table A" allocations, CCWA currently needs water to supplement its 2019 supplies. The CCWA and MWA 2019 Short Term Water Exchange Program (Exchange) provides for a four-to-one (4:1) exchange of SWP water. In 2019, CCWA will purchase six thousand, two hundred (6,200) acre-feet of MWA's Table A SWP supply. CCWA will pay MWA \$320 per acre-foot. The purchased water will be delivered by DWR to CCWA and its member agencies pursuant to the Santa Barbara SWP contract. In exchange, on or before December 31, 2029, CCWA will return one thousand, five hundred and fifty (1,550) acre-feet to MWA (one (1) acre-foot for every four (4) acre-feet of Table A SWP water delivered to CCWA in 2019). The return water will be delivered by DWR to MWA pursuant to the MWA SWP contract.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Central Coast Water Authority. Other approving agencies include: California Department of Water Resources, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Mojave Water Agency.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption (Not a Project Under CEQA)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

- a. The Exchange is not a project under CEQA (Pub. Res. Code § 21065; 14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15061(b)(3), 15378) because the Exchange will not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment. The Santa Barbara and MWA SWP contracts include provisions for delivery within the

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SWP place of use. Accordingly, the Exchange is simply a change in water management operations using existing facilities.

- b. The Exchange will facilitate the delivery of SWP water from one SWP contractor to another, using only existing facilities in Santa Barbara and San Bernardino Counties and is intended to meet existing uses of water and would not support new development or a change in land use. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15061(b)(3), 15301.)
- c. The Exchange is entirely within the authorized SWP place of use.

Agency Contact Person: Ray Stokes

Telephone: (805) 688-2292

Signature: 

Date: 2-22-19

Ray Stokes

Title: Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority

Date received for filing OPR: _____

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