

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO: County Clerk for the County of Merced 2222 M St. Merced, CA 95340</p> <p>Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of San Bernardino 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415</p> <p>Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222 Sacramento, CA 95814 Attn: State Clearinghouse</p>	<p>FROM: Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency 24116 Crest Forest Drive Crestline, CA 92325</p>
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1. Project Title:	Water Exchange Agreement Between Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District for the Exchange of Water from the State Water Project (the "Project")
2. Project Location:	The Project provides for (1) the delivery of up to 6,000 acre-feet of Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency's ("CLAWA") State Water Project ("SWP") water at the San Luis Reservoir in the County of Merced to the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's ("SBVMWD") service area in the County of San Bernardino by December 31, 2028 via existing facilities; and (2) SBVMWD's return of up to 2,000 acre-feet of water to CLAWA's service area by December 31, 2028 via existing facilities.
3. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>CLAWA and SBVMWD are SWP contractors that receive water deliveries from the SWP. Due to an unusually wet February and March 2019, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is spilling water that some SWP Contractors have carried over in storage at the San Luis Reservoir. CLAWA has water in the San Luis Reservoir at risk of spill and desires to store its carryover water in SBVMWD's service area rather than have it spill.</p> <p>To this end, the Agreement was approved on March 7, 2019. The Agreement provides for (1) the delivery of up to 6,000 acre-feet of CLAWA's SWP water at the San Luis Reservoir to SBVMWD's service area via existing facilities by December 31, 2028; and (2) SBVMWD's return of up to 2,000 acre-feet of water to CLAWA's service area via existing facilities by December 31, 2028.</p>
4. Name of Public Agency approving project:	Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
5. Name of Person or Agency carrying out project:	Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency
6. Exempt status:	
(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15301 [Existing Facilities]; State CEQA Guidelines § 15304 [Minor Alterations to Water]
(b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)

<p>7. Reason why project was exempt:</p>	<p>The Project is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines section 15301 because the Project consists of the operation of existing facilities in the manner for which they were designed to transport water; the Project does not entail the construction of any new structure, nor does it entail expanding the use of the facilities in question.</p> <p>In addition, the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15304 because the Project will only involve a minor alteration of the condition of water, and it will not require the removal of any healthy, mature, scenic trees.</p> <p>None of the exceptions enumerated in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the Class 1 and Class 4 Exemptions applicable here; notably, the Project does not present any unusual circumstances; would not damage scenic resources, including any resources in the area of a Scenic Highway; would not be utilized on a hazardous waste site; and would not impact historic resources of any kind.</p> <p>Finally, the Project is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Project may have a significant impact on the environment. Implementation of the Project involves the transportation of water to which CLAWA is entitled via existing facilities. Moreover, CLAWA seeks to proceed with the Project because the San Luis Reservoir is nearly at capacity after an exceptionally wet February and March 2019 and water within the reservoir is at risk of spilling; thus, the transportation of water from the San Luis Reservoir to SBVMWD's service area will not cause a significant environmental impact relating to the San Luis Reservoir's water levels. Furthermore, no physical facilities will be constructed to produce, transport, or store the water because all such required facilities already exist. In addition, no new water production or transportation capacity is created by the Project. Beyond the foregoing, the Project does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth-inducing or cumulative environmental impacts. For all these reasons, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Project may have a significant impact on the environment.</p>
<p>8. Contact Person:</p>	<p>Roxanne Holmes, General Manager</p>
<p>Telephone:</p>	<p>(951) 338-1779</p>

Date Received for Filing: _____

Michael T. [Signature]
 Signature (Lead Agency Representative)

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE