

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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**To:** Kern County Clerk  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**From:** Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency  
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

**To:** Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
Los Angeles County  
12400 Imperial Highway  
Norwalk, CA 90650

**To:** County Clerk and Recorder  
Ventura County  
800 S. Victoria Ave, Location #1260  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Project Title:** 2019 Water Transfer from Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency to Water Districts within Kern County Water Agency

**Location -- Specific:** Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency ("SCVWA") is located in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District and Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa Water Storage District (collectively, the "Kern Westside Districts") are member units of the Kern County Water Agency ("KCWA") located on the Westside of Kern County and are proposing to purchase 9,900 acre-feet ("AF") of water from SCVWA. The SCVWA water proposed to be transferred originated in Kern County, is currently stored in Kern County, and via this water transfer would be used within Kern County.

**Location -- Counties:** Kern County, Los Angeles County, and Ventura County

**Description of Activity:** The Kern Westside Districts are proposing to purchase 9,900 AF of water from SCVWA. SCVWA has a May 22, 2007 agreement to purchase water from Buena Vista WSD ("BVWSD") and Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD ("RRBWSD") as part of the BVWSD/RRBWSD Water Banking and Recovery Program that is deliverable to SCVWA via exchange for a portion of BVWSD and RRBWSD's KCWA State Water Project ("SWP") Table A water. Per said 2007 agreement, SCVWA would request BVWSD/RRBWSD to provide the water to SCVWA in the California Aqueduct as KCWA SWP Table A water. The KCWA SWP Table A water would then be transferred internally within KCWA to the Kern Westside Districts in the following percentages: 20.46% to Belridge WSD, 17.97% to Berrenda Mesa WD, 34.60% to Lost Hills WD, and 26.97% to Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity:** Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), Kern County Water Agency, Belridge WSD, Berrenda Mesa WD, Lost Hills WD, and Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa WSD (Responsible Agencies).

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

**Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

**Reasons why activity is exempt:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing significant environmental impacts. 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 not subject to CEQA. SCVWA finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility for significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

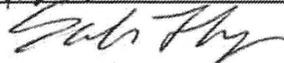
1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
3. There will be no land use changes or additional agricultural acreage being cultivated as a result of the proposed project.

Additionally, since the project will rely on the operation of existing facilities, there will be no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the Lead Agency's determination and will not have a significant effect on the physical environment, the project also qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. None of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the proposed action.

Note that CEQA for the BVWSD/RRBWSD Water Banking and Recovery Program was addressed via SCH#2006021003 for which the California Department of Water Resources filed a Notice of Determination on March 4, 2008. The water being transferred by SCVWA has been acquired under said BVWSD/RRBWSD program; the Kern Westside Districts would be purchasing 9,900 AF from SCVWA.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dirk Marks

**Telephone:** 661-513-1297

**Signature:**   


**Title:** Director of Water Resources **Date:** 4-18-19

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

*Governor's Office of Planning & Research*

**APR 30 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**