

File Pursuant to
Gov't Code 6103

**Empire West Side Irrigation District
Notice of Exemption**

**ORIGINAL
FILED**

JUL 17 2019

**KRISTINE LEE
KINGS COUNTY CLERK**

To: County Clerk
County of Kings
Kings County Gov. Center
Hanford, CA 93230

State Clearing House
State of California
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Empire West Side Irrigation District, 21990 Laurel Ave, P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,500 AF of EWSID 2018 State Water Project Water to Kern County Water Agency.

Project Location – Specific: Kern County Water Agency Service Area

Project Location – City: **Project Location – County:** Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (District) will transfer up to 1,500 AF of its 2019 State Water Project Water to Kern County Water Agency for Sandridge Partners Inc. who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2019. This proposed transfer is designed to enable Sandridge Partners Inc. to better manage its respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District, Kern County Water Agency and the California Department of Water Resources.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Exempt Status:

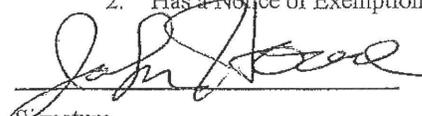
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

Reasons why project is exempt: The District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts, because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, no additional groundwater will be pumped, and there is no physical change associated with this project. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Lead Agency Contact Person: John Howe **Telephone:** 559-947-3027

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


Signature Date Title

July 25, 2019 President

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 19 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Empire West Side Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,500 a.f. of EWSID 2019 State Water Project Water to Kern County Water Agency

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) will transfer up to 1,500 a.f. of its 2019 State Water Project Water to Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) for Sandridge Partners Inc. who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2019. This proposed transfer is designed to enable both DRWD and EWSID water users to better manage their respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District
John Howe
P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
559-947-3027

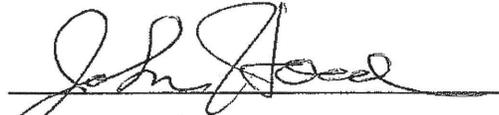
Recommendation: Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)
A. Applicable Exemption Class: 1
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt: EWSID has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Date: July 11, 2019


John Howe, President

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 19 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE