

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

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

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

Project Title: 2019 Water Exchange between Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Location -- Specific: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency ("SCVWA") is located in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District ("Rosedale") is a member unit of the Kern County Water Agency ("KCWA") located on the Westside of Kern County.

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

Description of Activity: The project involves a 2:1 water exchange between SCVWA and Rosedale. The project would allow SCVWA a one-time transfer of up to 25,000 AF of its 2019 SWP Table A water in exchange for up to 12,500 AF of water from Rosedale. Rosedale will take delivery of exchange water between October 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 of Table A water through Reach 12E of the California Aqueduct at the CVC turnout for the Cross Valley Canal (CVC). The project will use existing Rosedale banking facilities including infiltration ponds, extraction wells and transmission pipelines/canals. The agreement has a term of ten years and return water shall be delivered by December 31, 2029. Return water will be delivered using Drought Relief Wells constructed to return water under the Rosedale SCVWA Banking Agreement (2005), or through Rosedale's share of KCWA's future SWP Table A entitlement in the California Aqueduct.

SCVWA conducted a similar exchange agreement in 2011 (SWPAO #11010) with Rosedale.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, and Kern County Water Agency.

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☒ **Categorical Exemption.** State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1).
- ☒ **Statutory Exemption.** State 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.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dirk Marks

Telephone: 661-513-1297

Signature:  **Title:** Director of Water Resources **Date:** 10-15-19

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency
- ☒ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 16 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE