

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 United Water Conservation District and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Location -- Specific: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency ("SCVWA") is located in Los Angeles County. United Water Conservation District ("UWCD") is located in Ventura County.

Location -- Counties: Ventura County and Los Angeles County

Description of Activity: The project involves a 2:1 water exchange between SCVWA and UWCD. The project would allow SCVWA a one-time transfer of up to 2,000 AF of its 2019 SWP Table A water supply, in exchange for up to 1,000 AF of water from future allocated UWCD's share of SWP Table A Water Supply. UWCD will take delivery of exchange water between October 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 of SWP Table A water through Reach 29 or Reach 30 of the California Aqueduct. The project will use existing SWP facilities for this exchange. The agreement has a term of ten years and return water shall be delivered by December 31, 2029. Return water will be delivered through existing SWP facilities utilizing UWCD's share of Ventura County Watershed Protection District's future SWP Table A Water Supply. Return water will be delivered up to a maximum amount of 500 acre-feet per year.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), United Water Conservation District, Ventura County Watershed Protection District

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: 10-24-19

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

OCT 24 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Date received for filing by County Clerk:
