

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

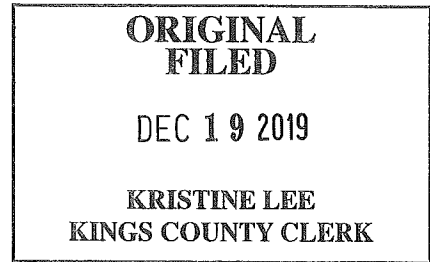
Appendix E

**To:**  Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk/County Recorder  
County of Fresno  
2220 Tulare Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

County Clerk/County Recorder  
County of Kings  
County Government Center  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

**From:**  Westlands Water District  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703



**Project Title:** Westlands Water District Distribution District NO.1 (District) Interim Renewal of Central Valley Project (CVP) Water Service Contract #14-06-200-8018-IR17-B.

**Project Applicant:** Westlands Water District - Distribution District No. 1

**Project Location – Specific:** Within the boundaries of the Westlands Water District.

**Project Location – City:** N/A **Project Location – County:** Fresno and Kings.

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The project is the execution of the Interim Renewal Contract #14-06-200-8018-IR17-B water service contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of continuing delivery of CVP water within the District's service area boundary. The beneficiaries of the project are the District, its landowners, and water users. The USBR is a party to the bilateral agreement and as such is a recipient of the District's approval (Pub. Resources Code, §§21065, 21167.6.5). The project is entirely administrative in scope.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Westlands Water District - Distribution District No. 1

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Westlands Water District - Distribution District No. 1

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- 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. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines, §15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: CEQA Guidelines, §15261

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project is statutorily exempt from compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act as provided in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15261, because it is merely a continuation of a project approved, funded and fully operated prior to November 23, 1970 and no modification or alteration in the Central Valley Project or the amount of water delivered is proposed.

The project is also exempt under 14 CCR 15301 as it provides for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project is wholly administrative in scope as the project involves no construction, alteration, or expansion of an existing use.

**Lead Agency**

Contact Person: Russ Freeman

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6241

**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  NO

Signature:  Date: 12/18/19 Title: Chief Operating Officer

Signed by Lead Agency     Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**DEC 20 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**