

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From (Public Agency):
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Project Title: South State Water Project Water Quality Certification Amendment

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Location - Specific: Pyramid Lake on Middle Piru Creek.

Project Location - City: Not Applicable **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: On December 6, 2019, DWR requested authorization from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for a temporary variance from Condition No. 1 of the South State Water Project's (Project; Federal Energy Commission [FERC] Project No. 2426) water quality certification (certification) to temporarily increase the amount of water delivery from Pyramid Lake to United Water Conservation District (United) at Piru Lake, middle Piru Creek. Condition 1 of the Project's certification requires stream releases from Pyramid Lake match natural inflow, and has a limitation of 3,150 acre-feet. DWR requested to deliver an additional 5,837.5 acre-feet to United, for a total of 8,987.5 acre-feet. A variance to Condition 1 of the certification will allow for a one-time delivery total of 8,987.5 acre-feet of water from Pyramid Lake to Piru Lake by the end of February 2020. The release will mimic the natural hydrograph, include a gradual ramp up and ramp down of flows, and a peak flow similar to that of a typical storm event. The proposed increase of the Project's water delivery is to help replenish critically depleted groundwater conditions within United's service boundary.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of Water Resources

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: Class 1, §15301 and Class 7, §15307
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 1 exemption applies because the Project is a water management operation using only existing facilities with no construction, expansion of use, or change in land use. Temporary increase of the Project's water delivery will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The Class 7 exemption applies because the proposed release is intended to improve the conditions of the Oxnard Plain and Pleasant Valley groundwater basins, which are experiencing severely depleted groundwater conditions.

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Signature:  Title: Executive Director Date: **JAN 15 2020**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: _____