NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(filed pursuant to Government Code 6103)

From: Mojave Water Agency

To: Office of Planning & Research

Post Office Box 3044, Room 113

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

To: San Bernardino County Clerk 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd floor

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130

To: County Clerk

County of Kern 1115 Truxtin Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639

Receipt No: 34-D20107070

13846 Conference Center Dr Apple Valley, CA 92307 BOARD OF SUPERVISO CALIFORNIA AND OF SUPERVISO

Project Title: State Water Exchange Between the Mojave Water Agency and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Location -- Specific: Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is a State Water Project contractor located in San Bernardino County. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) is a State Water Project contractor serving most of Southern California and headquartered in Los Angeles, California. The State Water Project includes facilities located throughout the State of California. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is headquartered in Sacramento, California. Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) receives State Water Project from MWDSC through the Municipal Water District of Southern California (MWDOC) and is located in Orange County, California. IRWD owns the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project (Strand Ranch) located in Kern County. IRWD, MWDSC and MWDOC have executed a Coordinated Operating and Exchange Agreement that allows IRWD to secure State Water Project on MWDSC's behalf for the joint benefit of MWDSC and IRWD. The Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project is operated by Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage (RRB) which has an annual state water project Table A amount through State Water Project contractor Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) also located in Kern County.

Location -- County: San Bernardino County and Kern County

Description of Activity: MWA agrees to instruct DWR to deliver to MWDSC, at a time and place to be determined by DWR and agreed by MWDSC and KCWA, a total of up to twenty-thousand (20,000) acre feet of MWA's 2020 Table A water. Either KCWA will deliver the water on MWDSC's behalf to RRB for storage directly in the Strand Ranch or into storage in other existing water banking or exchange programs (including Kern Water Bank) in which IRWD is a participant in Kern County with a subsequent transfer to the Strand Ranch. MWA may request MWDSC to instruct DWR to return deliver an amount equivalent to one-quarter of its portion (25% of the total storage amount) of the stored water back to MWA in any year that MWA requires the supplies. Stored water would be delivered to MWA through direct recovery from the Strand Ranch and/or exchange. The remaining 75% of banked water after proportional and applicable losses shall be transferred to MWDSC for mutual use of MWDSC and IRWD. MWA's request for delivery by exchange shall take place prior to the end of the tenth calendar year subsequent to the recharge of water.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Mojave Water Agency (Lead Agency), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Responsible Agency), Kern County Water Agency (Responsible Agency) and the California Department of Water Resources (Approving Agency)

Exempt Status: Title 14, CCR, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15061(b)(3); and Article 19, Section 15301(b) (Existing public facilities).

Reasons why activity is exempt: For the reasons stated below, this project is determined to be exempt per CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)3 which provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt based upon the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for significant effect on the environment. Further, this project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines section 15301(b) (operation of existing facilities used to provide public utility services which involve a negligible or no expansion of the existing use).

- The water exchange that is the subject of the agreement is temporary and made for the purposes of assisting MWDSC and IRWD to provide a more reliable water supply to its customers.
- 2. MWDSC and IRWD will use this water to serve its existing customers. It will not be used for new development since it is a one-time transfer.
- 3. MWA does not intend to use the water to be exchanged during the time period relevant to the exchange, so no environmental impacts will occur in the CCWA service area.
- 4. The water exchanged will be delivered to existing facilities at the Cross Valley Canal or Kern Water Bank turnouts to the Strand Ranch or other existing water banking or exchange programs (including the Kern Water Bank) in which IRWD is a participant in Kern County.
- 5. The agreement provides adequate advance notice to allow MWDSC and IRWD to manage their supplies to plan for the return of the exchanged water such that the return will not materially adversely impact water supplies.
- 6. The amount of water involved in the temporary transfer is small in proportion to the total supplies of each agency.

Lead A	gency Contact Person:	nomas McCartny releptione: (760) 946-7000
Signate	Thomas McCarthy	Title: General Manager, Mojave Water Agency
		Date: 2/5/2020
1.	by applicant: Attach certified document of Has a Notice of Exemption	of exemption finding. been filed by the public agency approving the project? 区 Yes
abla	Signed by Lead Agency	Date received for filing OPR;
		Governor's Office of Planning & Research
		FEB 1 0 2020

BRUNICK, MCELHANEY & KENNEDY

WILLIAM J. BRUNICK LELAND P. MCELHANEY STEVEN M. KENNEDY PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION
1839 COMMERCENTER WEST
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92408

TELEPHONE: (909) 889-8301 FAX: (909) 388-1889

MAILING ADDRESS:
POST OFFICE BOX 13130

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92423-3130

February 6, 2020

State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

RE: Filing of Notice of Exemption

Project Title: State Water Exchange Between the Mojave Water Agency and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed two (2) copies of a Notice of Exemption filed by Mojave Water Agency as lead agency for the:

Project Title: State Water Exchange Between the Mojave Water Agency and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Please receive stamp one copy and return in the envelope provided.

Thank you. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BRUNICK, McELHANEY & KENNEDY PLC

WILLIAM J. BRUNICK

WJB\pjq

Enclosure: As stated

Research Revernor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 10 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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