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KERN COUNTY

AUG 07 2020

MARY B. BEDARD
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY DEPUTY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Kern County Water Agency
P.O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: Agreement between the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Delivery of Central Valley Project (CVP) Cross Valley Canal (CVC) water to Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (Wheeler Ridge).

Location -- Specific: The Agency is a State Water Project (SWP) contractor located in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Wheeler Ridge contracts for SWP water through the Agency and is in Kern County in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California. Hills Valley Irrigation District (Hills Valley), Tri-Valley Water District (Tri-Valley) and the County of Tulare are located in Tulare County.

Location -- County: Kern County.

Description of Activity: In 2020 and 2021, Hills Valley, Tri-Valley and the County of Tulare will transfer up to 1,959 acre-feet (af) 2020-2021 CVP CVC water to the Agency for delivery to Wheeler Ridge from California Aqueduct turnouts located in the Agency's service area.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Agency (Lead Agency).

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☒ **Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guideline 15301(b).
- ☒ **Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer involves delivery water entirely within the Agency's service area, and exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. 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. The Agency finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer from existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.

Notice of this existing Document
Posted by County Clerk on 8-7-2020
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code


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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 change in land use.

Wheeler Ridge filed a Notice of Exemption on July 20, 2020 with the County of Kern and State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2020070425).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Holly Melton

Telephone: (661) 634-1400

Signature: 
Holly Melton

Title: Water Resources Manager

Date: 7/28/2020

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

☒ Signed by Applicant
