Empire West Side Irrigation District Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk State Clearing House County of Kings State of California Kings County Gov. Center 1400 10th Street Hanford, CA 93230 Sacramento, CA 95814 From: Empire West Side Irrigation District, 21990 Laurel Ave, P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266 Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,500 AF of EWSID 2020 State Water Project Water to Dudley Ridge Water District. Project Location - Specific: Dudley Ridge Water District Service Area Project Location - City: Project Location - County: Kings Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (District) will transfer up to 1,500 AF of its 2020 State Water Project Water to Dudley Ridge Water District for Sandridge Partners Inc. who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2020. This proposed transfer is designed to enable Sandridge Partners Inc. to better manage its respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past. Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District, Dudley Ridge Water District, and the California Department of Water Resources. Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District **Exempt Status:** Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268); Governor's Office of Planning & Research. Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); OCT 02 2020 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)); Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301); Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729) Reasons why project is exempt: The District has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts, because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, no additional groundwater will be pumped, and there is no physical change associated with this project. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301). Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Sills Telephone: 559-352-7947 If filed by applicant Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes

Signature Date Title

Empire West Side Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

Project Title:

Common Landowner Transfer of up to 1,500 a.f. of EWSID 2020 State Water Project

Water to Dudley Ridge Water District

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) will transfer up to 1,500 a.f. of its 2020 State Water Project Water to Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) for Sandridge Partners Inc. who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2020. This proposed transfer is designed to enable both DRWD and EWSID water users to better manage their respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the transfer and no additional groundwater will be pumped. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project:

Empire West Side Irrigation District

Scott Sills P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266 559-352-7947

Recommendation: Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

	1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
	2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
	3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
_X	 The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329) A. Applicable Exemption Class: 1
<u>X</u>	5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
_X	6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt: EWSID has determined that there are no foresecable environmental impacts. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Date: 9/28/20

Aud All Scott Sills, General Manager

Empire West Side Irrigation District 21990 Laurel Avenue P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266 Phone 559-352-7947

September 28, 2020

State Clearing House State of California 1400 10th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Posting of Notice of Exemption - Common Landowner Transfer - up to 1,500 af - Sandridge Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please post the enclosed Notice of Exemption for 30 days. Please provide a confirmation of posting via Fax or U.S. mail.

Please contact Scott Sills if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Sills

General Manager

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 02 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Enclosures