#### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research

Post Office Box 3044

Sacramento, California 95812

From: Department of Water Resources

Division of Operations and Maintenance

1416 9th Street

Sacramento, California 95814

**Project Title:** Agreement between the Department of Water Resources of the State of California and Kern County Water Agency for a Change in Point of Delivery of a Portion of Kern County Water Agency's State Water Project Table A Water (SWPAO #21008)

**Location – Specific:** From the Delta to O'Neill Forebay (Reach 3 of the California Aqueduct)

Location -- County: Kern, Madera, Fresno, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties

**Description of Activity:** DWR will make available up to 4,015 acre-feet of Kern County Water Agency's (KCWA) approved 2021 State Water Project (SWP) Table A water at O'Neill Forebay for subsequent delivery by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA) for use on lands outside of SWP place of use. This will facilitate the return delivery of SJRECWA's Central Valley Project (CVP) supplies previously delivered to KCWA's service area, on behalf of its member agency, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale). The delivery of water under this agreement is covered under the 2020 Consolidated Place of Use Order (Order) approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on July 16, 2020 and must be completed before the Order expires on July 15, 2021.

Name of Public Agency Approving or Carrying Out Activity: SJRECWA (lead agency), KCWA (responsible agency), Rosedale (responsible agency), DWR (responsible agency), Reclamation, and State Water Resources Control Board (responsible agency)

### **Exempt Status:**

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☑ Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility
- ☑ Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729

## Reason why activity is exempt:

- a. California Water Code, § 1729, exempts temporary changes in place of use from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000; see also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15282, subd. (u).)
- b. The proposed project is a water management operation using only existing facilities.
- c. The project will not support new development or a change in land use.
- d. The project does not establish a new permanent source of water supply.

Responsible Agency C	contact Person:	Patrick Luzuriaga	Telephone:	916-653-9593

Signature: <u>John Lealigh</u> Date: 5/13/2021

John Leahigh

Water Operations Executive Manager Division of Operations and Management

DWR

Date	received	for filing	OPR.	
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Department of Water Resources

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