NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: □ Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

□ County Clerk/County Recorder

County of Fresno P.O. Box 766 Fresno, CA 93712

From: □ Westlands Water District

P.O. Box 6056 Fresno, CA 93703

Project Title: Rules and Regulations Sections 1.1 through 1.12 and Section 1.17 for the Groundwater

Allocation Program and Use of Groundwater Allocation within the Westside Subbasin

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWD GSA)

Project Location - Specific: District-wide, located in western Fresno and Kings Counties. See Figure

1.

Project Location – City: N/A Project Location – County: Fresno, Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Rules and Regulations adopted by the WWD GSA govern implementation of the GSP's Projects and Management Actions. The Rules and Regulations will inform landowners and groundwater users on the administration of groundwater allocation, groundwater recharge project credits, and groundwater transfers between landowners and groundwater users. Groundwater users will be able to receive a pro-rata share of the sustainable yield annual allocation per gross acre.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: WWD GSA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: WWD GSA

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial	(Sec. 21	080(b)(1);	15268);
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□ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
□ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

X Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), §15307 & §15308

X Statutory Exemptions. Water Code §10728.6

Reasons why project is exempt:

The rules and regulations were adopted as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") per Water Code §10728.6. Because the adoption of the rules and regulations will not have any significant impact on the environment under the commonsense exemption, it is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15061.b(3). The adoption of the rules and regulations are actions taken by the WWD GSA as authorized by the SGMA for the protection of natural resources and the environment, which is categorically exempt under §15307 and §15308 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jose Gutierrez Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6215

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? □YES□NO

Signature: Date: 8/23/21 Title: Chief Operating Officer

X Signed by Lead Agency □ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.

