NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: □ Office of Planning and Research

P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

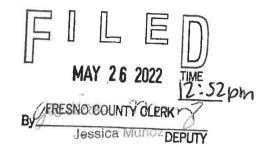
□ County Clerk/County Recorder

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

From:

Westlands Water District

P.O. Box 6056 Fresno, CA 93703



Project Title: Modifications to Rules and Regulations Sections 1.3, 1.5 through 1.9, 1.11, 1.12 and 1.17

for the Groundwater Allocation Program and Use of Groundwater Allocation within the

Westside Subbasin

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District, Serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWD)

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 Sections adopted by the WWD support implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan's Projects and Management Actions. The modifications to Rules and Regulations Sections 1.3, 1.5 through 1.9, 1.11, 1.12 and 1.17 will inform landowners and groundwater users on the administration of subsidence prone areas, carryover, penalties, and the groundwater allocation program.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: WWD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: WWD

E20221000012S

Exempt Statu	s: (check one)		
	Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b) Declared Emergency (Sec Emergency Project (Sec. Categorical Exemptions. Statutory Exemptions. Wa	c. 21080(b)(3); 15269 21080(b)(4); 15269(b CEQA Guidelines §1	
Reasons why	project is exempt:		
The Rules and Regulations were previously adopted by the WWD pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on August 17, 2021, and subsequently modified on April 25, 2022, and in doing so, each action was found to be statutorily and categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA").			
The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Water Code §10728.6. Because the modifications to Rules and Regulations Rules and Regulations Sections 1.3, 1.5 through 1.9, 1.11, 1.12 and 1.17 will no have any significant impact on the environment, the Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3). WWD, as authorized by the SGMA, approved the Project for the protection of natural resources and the environment, which is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15307, §15308, and §15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.			
Lead Agency Contact Perso	n: Russ Freeman	Area C	ode/Telephone/Extension: <u>(559) 241-624</u>
If filed by appl	icant:		
 Attach certified document of exemption finding. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? □YES□NO 			
Signature: //	m Frema	Date: 5/26/2022 Title:	Deputy General Manager Resources
X Sign	ed by Lead Agency □ Sig	ned by Applicant	
Authority cited: Sec	tions 21083, Public Resources Co	de.	Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108/h), 21152/h), Public Resources Code			

