NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812
FROM: Public Agency: San Luis Water District
1015 Sixth Street
P.O. Box 2135
Los Banos, CA 93635

O County Clerk
County of: Merced

Address: 2222 "M" Street, Room 14 Merced, CA 95340

o County Clerk County of: Fresno

> Address: 2221 Kern Street Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: Contract Between the United States and San Luis Water District Providing for Project Water Service San Luis Unit and Delta Division and Facilities Repayment to Santa Nella County Water District.

Project Applicant: San Luis Water District

Project Location: Within the boundaries of San Luis Water District and Santa Nella County Water

District

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: See Attachment A

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Luis Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Luis Water District

Exempt Status: (check one)

o Ministerial, (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)

- o Declared Emergency Project, (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- o Emergency Project, (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- X Categorical Exemption, State type and Section number: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301
- X Statutory Exemption, State Code Number: <u>Public Resources Code, Section 21080(b)(8); CEQA</u> Guidelines, Section 15273

Reason why project is exempt: See Attachment A

Contact Person: Lon Martin	Area Code/Telephone/Extension:	(209) 826 4043
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

Signature:	Joseph	MANN	Date:	12/16/	SSOS

Title: PHERO | MANUAL Received for Filing by County Clerk _____

Attachment A Notice of Exemption

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is the execution of a Contract Between the United States, San Luis Water District and Santa Nella County Water District Providing for Project Water Service San Luis Unit and Delta Division and Facilities Repayment to Santa Nella ("Partial Assignment Contract"), a repayment contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purpose of partially assigning 4,449 acre-feet of CVP water to Santa Nella County Water District. The beneficiaries of the project are San Luis Water District, Santa Nella County Water District, its landowners and water users. The USBR is a party to the agreement and as such is a recipient of the District's approval. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21065, 21167.5). The project is entirely administrative in scope.

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt under 14 CCR 15273(a)(1) because the Contract Between the United States and San Luis Water District Providing for Project Water Service San Luis Unit and Delta Division and Facilities Repayment includes both San Luis Water District and Santa Nella County Water District due to overlapping boundaries and this action does not change the level of service for either district. Merced County Local Agency Formation Commission ("LAFCO") approved the elimination of the overlapping boundaries of San Luis and Santa Nella conditioned upon the assignment of the respective portion of the CVP contract. The Partial Assignment Contract assigns 4,449 acre-feet of water from San Luis Water District's repayment contract to Santa Nella County Water District reducing San Luis Water District CVP contract from 125,080 acrefeet to 120,631 acre-feet. It involves only adjustments to administrative terms and makes no changes to service level or CVP water supply. The Partial Assignment Contract does not involve any increase in service or expansion of the existing distribution system.

The project is also exempt under 14 CCR 15301 as it provides for the continued operation of existing facilities within established parameters. The project is wholly administrative in scope and involves no construction, alteration, or expansion of an existing use.