

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage
District
849 Allen Road Bakersfield, CA
93314

RECEIVED
KERN COUNTY

JUN 10 2025

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

Title: Operational Water Exchange With South Fork Kern River Water

Location – Specific: From the South Fork of the Kern River near Onyx, Ca, to the San Joaquin valley floor, including Isabella Reservoir, Kern River channel downstream of Isabella Dam, and existing conveyance and recharge facilities on the San Joaquin Valley floor near Bakersfield, Ca.

Location – County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Activity:

The proposed activity involves the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District ("District") delivering up to 4,500 acre-feet of its South Fork Kern River water, as described in its certified Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH#2018021061), to a public agency that has existing contractual rights to store water in Isabella Reservoir (i.e., North Kern Water Storage District, Kern Delta Water District, City of Bakersfield, or Kern County Water Agency) in exchange for a like amount of water in the Kern County Subbasin. To optimize the timing and delivery of the exchanged water, the receiving entity may temporarily store up to 4,500 acre-feet in its existing storage capacity in Isabella Reservoir for later delivery to its service area using existing facilities. The proposed activity will be accommodated using existing facilities; no expansion or physical modifications to any facilities will be required. Any water exchanged under the proposed activity would be stored within the contractual limits of the entity participating in the exchange. The delivery from the District to a participating entity will be complete on or before December 31, 2025. The primary purposes of the activity are to effectuate operational flexibility, generate energy efficiencies, and to increase water supplies available to landowners within the District's boundaries. The beneficiaries of the proposed activity are the landowners and the water users within the District and a participating agency's boundaries.

Name of Public Agency Approving Activity: Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Activity: Dan Bartel, Engineer-Manager, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption – CEQA Guidelines §15301 (Existing Facilities)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions.
- ☒ General Rule or Common-Sense Exemption (15061(b)(3)).

Reasons why project is exempt:

Existing Facilities (§15301): The proposed activity involves the exchange of water supplies to support operational flexibility and energy efficiency among public agencies. It relies entirely on the continued use of existing infrastructure, including Isabella Reservoir, the Kern River channel, and existing conveyance canals and recharge facilities located on the San Joaquin Valley floor overlying the Kern Subbasin. There will be no expansion or physical modification of any facilities resulting from the exchange. Temporary storage of up to 4,500 acre-feet is well within the historical operational range of the reservoir. Operational exchanges of this nature are routinely conducted in the Kern County Subbasin as part of established water management practices.

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

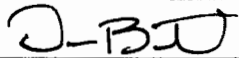
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Common Sense (§15061(b)(3)): The proposed activity involves only minor operational modifications and administrative matters (i.e., recordkeeping) that do not include any construction, land disturbance, or changes in land use. As such, it can be seen with certainty that the proposed activity will not result in a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rachelle Echeverria

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661)589-6045

Signature:  Date: 6/10/25 Title: ENGINEER-MANAGER

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant