

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Central Valley Flood Protection Board
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170
Sacramento, CA 95821
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State Clearinghouse Number: 2022100611

Project Title: Permit No. 20007- James Bypass Basins Storage and Recharge Project

Project Location: The proposed project is located along the James Bypass, approximately 3.5 miles north of the community of Helm in Fresno County (36.583712°, -120.105872°).

Project Description: The project proposes to construct a check dam structure with concrete cutoff walls along the existing James Bypass Auxiliary (right bank) Channel with erosion control riprap on the downstream end.

Public Agency Approving Project: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

Project Applicant/Agency Carrying Out Project/Lead Agency, Contact, Phone Number: James Irrigation District; Manny Amorelli; General Manager; 8749 9th Street, San Joaquin, CA 93660; mamorelli@jamesid.org; (559) 693-4356

Exempt Status:

☒ Emergency Project: Sec. 21080(b)(4);

☒ Statutory Exemption: 15269(b)(c)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

A state of emergency was proclaimed on March 28, 2022 by Governor Newsom to address the severe drought condition in California by suspending CEQA for the purposes of carrying out Executive Order N-7-22. The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) and CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15269(b)(c), because the project involves the construction of a check dam structure along the existing James Bypass auxiliary (easterly) channel and actions necessary to prevent or mitigate the drought emergency as described in Paragraph 13 of Executive Order N-7-22. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued a concurrence letter for the project on April 18, 2023, available on DWR's website: <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Water-Basics/Drought/Files/Approved-Suspension-Requests/James-Irrigation-District-Concurrence-Letter.pdf>.

Chris Lief

11/14/2025

Signature

Chris Lief, Executive Officer

Date

☒ Signed by Public Agency ☐ Signed by Responsible Agency

Date Received for filing at the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation:

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

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