

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:**

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate  
Innovation, State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**FROM:**

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:** 2024010445

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2410010-001P

**PROJECT TITLE:** Winton Water and Sanitary District Water System - Well 16 Project (Project)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Intersection of Eucalyptus Ave and Jones Road, Winton, CA, Merced County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is a Responsible Agency for the Project. The State Water Board is funding the Project referred to internally as Well 16 Project. The components of the Project, to be funded by the State Water Resources Control Board, include evaluating the feasibility of restoring the Winton Water and Sanitary District's (District) inactive Well 16 through water quality sampling, video inspection, static water level measurement, and pumping to establish specific capacity. If the well's condition and performance are acceptable, alternative well modifications and/or treatment methods will be evaluated. The Project also involves the preparation of an engineering report, environmental documentation, plans and specifications, a technical, managerial, and financial assessment, a construction phase contract, and a DWSRF construction application. The objective of the eventual construction project is to return Well 16 back to service to provide additional water supply capacity and serve as a backup for the District's other wells.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT AND CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** The State Water Board has approved financing for the Project described above on April 24, 2026 and determined that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The Winton Water and Sanitary District will be carrying out the Project.

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION STATUS:**

**Class 6: Information Collection**

(California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 19, section 15306)

**STATUTORY EXEMPTION STATUS:**

**Feasibility and Planning Studies**

(California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 18, section 15262)

**REASON WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** The Project has been determined to meet the requirements of the exemptions selected above and will not have a significant impact on water quality. The Project involves feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions which the board has not approved or funded, and basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

**LEAD AGENCY:** Winton Water and Sanitary District

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Jennifer Caldera

**PHONE NUMBER:** (209) 358-2367

Records of the financing approval for the Project is available to the general public at the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance at 1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Pursuant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Code, Section 711.4(d)(1), the CDFW environmental review filing fees do not apply to exempt projects.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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