

## 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:** 2024070774

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 8798-110

**PROJECT TITLE:** City of Merced Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase VI Improvements Project (Project)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 10260 Gove Rd Merced, CA 95341; 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 financing the Project referred to internally as City of Merced Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase VI Improvements Project (Project). The Project includes replacing Aeration Basins 1 and 2 in-kind with conventional activated sludge basins and replacing three of the existing aeration blowers with one digester gas fueled blower for energy savings and a single dual core electric blower for redundancy.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT AND CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** The State Water Board has approved financing for the Project described above on February 6, 2026, and determined that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The City of Merced will be carrying out the Project.

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION STATUS:**

**Class 1: Existing Facilities**

(California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 19, section 15301)

**Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction**

(California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 19, section 15302)

**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 qualifies for a Class 1 exemption because it involves operation, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing structures, facilities and

mechanical equipment involving negligible or no expansion of existing use. The Project qualifies for a Class 2 exemption because it involves replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

**LEAD AGENCY:** The City of Merced

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Ken Elwin, Director of Public Works

**PHONE NUMBER:** (209) 385-6800

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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