

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:	Office of Planning and Research Post Office Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812	From:	Department of Water Resources Water Management P.O. BOX 942836 Sacramento, California 95814
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Project Title	Common Landowner Transfer of Empire West Side Irrigation District's State Water Project Article 56 Carryover Water to Kern County Water Agency on behalf of Sandridge Partners (SWP #25017)
Location- Specific	From the Delta to Kern County Water Agency's (KCWA's) turnout(s) in Reaches 9 through 16A of the California Aqueduct and/or Reach 31A of the California Aqueduct's Coastal Branch of the State Water Project (SWP).
Location- County	Kern County
Description of Activity	State Water Project Agreement SWP #25017 provides for the transfer and delivery of 650 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's (Empire's) Article 56 Carryover water to KCWA. The request was made on behalf of landowner Sandridge Partners, which farms in both Empire's and KCWA's service areas. The transfer of water shall be completed by December 31, 2025, for use in KCWA's service area.
Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying out Activity	Empire (local agency), KCWA (local agency), DWR (state agency)
Exempt Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729
Reasons why activity is exempt	<p>a. State Water Project long-term water supply contracts include provisions for delivery within SWP place of use, including transfers between SWP contractors.</p> <p>b. No construction is required to implement the proposed delivery.</p> <p>c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed delivery.</p> <p>d. There will be no change in land use as a result of this short-term transfer.</p>
DWR Contact Person	Patrick Luzuriaga Telephone: 916-820-7778

<p>Signature:</p> <p><i>Molly White</i></p> <hr/> <p>Molly White Assistant Division Manager, Water Management Division of Operations and Maintenance State Water Project</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>5/13/2025</p> <hr/>
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