

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To:  Governor's Office of Land Use and  
Climate Innovation  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Kern County Clerk  
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: (Public Agency):  
Kern Water Bank Authority  
1620 Mill Rock Way, Suite 500  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

(Address)

**Project Title:** Basin 11 Turnouts Project

**Project Location - Specific:** Kern County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 524-030-03, 524-030-15, 524-030-13, 524-040-01, 524-040-02, which APNs are shown on the parcel map attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**Project Location - City:** Bakersfield

**Project Location – County:** Kern

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The project consists of construction a turnout from Basin 1 of the City of Bakersfield's 2800 Acre Project and construction of a turnout from Basin 11 of the 2800 Acre Project to the adjacent Pioneer North West Basin (Pioneer Project Property) owned by the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), collectively, the "Basin 11 Turnouts," and Kern Water Bank Authority's (KWBA) entry into Basin 11 Turnouts construction and joint use of facilities agreements with KCWA and acceptance of a conveyance easement from KCWA, to allow for said construction and continued joint use and conveyance of water to and through said basin(s) and the James Canal and to the Kern Water Bank located in the County of Kern for underground storage and other lawful purposes and uses by the KWBA. Beneficiaries of the project are KWBA and the member entities of the KWBA, KCWA, Pioneer Project Participants, and their respective landowners and water users.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Kern Water Bank Authority; Kern County Water Agency

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Kern Water Bank Authority; Kern County Water Agency

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15301, 15302, 15303, 15304.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA review because the project: (1) allows for continued joint use of water conveyance facilities involving negligible or no expansion in existing or former use (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301); and/or (2) consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structures (Basin 11 Turnouts) will be located on the same site as the structures replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity of the structures replaced (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302); and/or (3) consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15303); and/or (4) makes minor alterations to the condition of land, which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304).

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Joe Butkiewicz, General Manager  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 398.4900

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature:  Date: 7-10-2025 Title: General Manager

× Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR

# **EXHIBIT A**

