

25-168

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk/County Recorder
County of Kings
1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230

From: Westlands Water District
PO Box 5199
Fresno, CA 93755

**ORIGINAL
FILED**

JUL 16 2025

**KRISTINE LEE
KINGS COUNTY CLERK**

KL

Project Title: Modifying the Regulations for the Groundwater Allocation Program and Use of Groundwater within the Westside Subbasin (Regulations)

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District, Serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWD)

Project Location – Specific: District-wide, located in western Fresno and Kings Counties. See Figure 1.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Fresno, Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Modifying the regulations supporting implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan's Projects and Management Actions. Modifications to Section 1.12 will change to apply the Leave Behind Percentage based on the remaining Sustainable Yield in the aggregate after unpumped groundwater has been stored for more than five consecutive years. The modifications to the regulations are consistent with the Westside Subbasin GSP, which allows the District to modify the Groundwater Allocation Program provided that the Groundwater Allocation Program is reasonably likely to achieve its intended objectives and support the sustainability goal for the Westside Subbasin.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: WWD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: WWD

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), §15307, §15308, and §15378
- Statutory Exemptions. Water Code §10728.6

Reasons why project is exempt:

The regulations were previously adopted by the WWD GSA pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on August 17, 2021, and action was found to be statutorily and categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The regulations were subsequently modified on May 23rd, 2022, September 20th, 2022, December 20th, 2022, September 18th, 2023, May 21st, 2024, and June 17th, 2025.

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Water Code §10728.6 because the modifications to the regulations adopted on June 17, 2025, will not have any significant impact on the environment. The Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3). WWD, as authorized by the SGMA, approved the Project for the protection of natural resources and the environment, which is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15307, §15308, and §15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Stephen Farmer

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6240

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

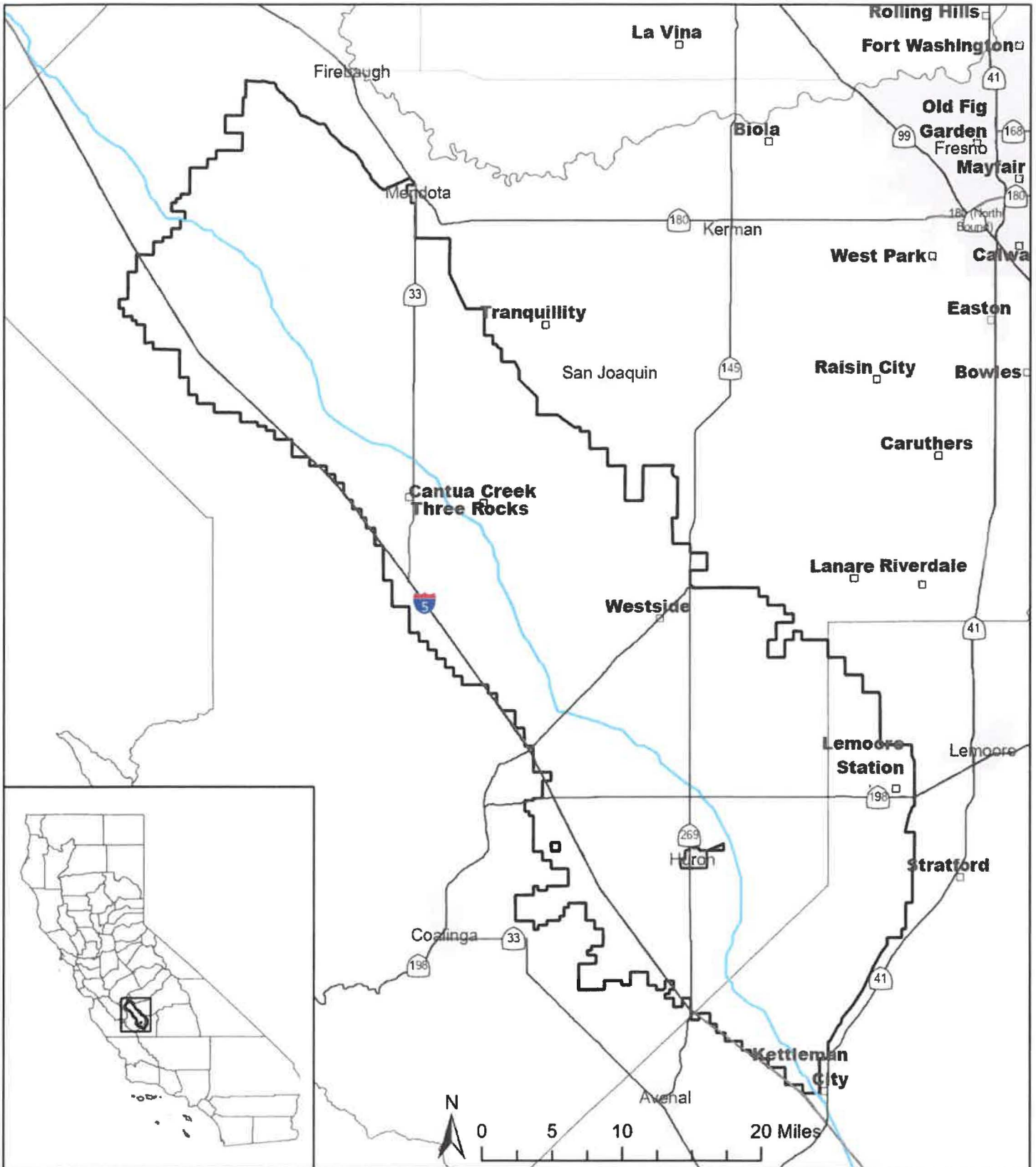
Signature:  Date: 2025.07.14 Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.



**Figure 1
District Map**

Legend

- California Counties
- Westlands Boundary
- San Luis Canal
- Unincorporated Community
- Municipal Area
- Roads



Westlands Water District

GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTIONS 6103 and 27383

6103 Neither the state nor any county, city, district, or other political subdivision, nor any public officer or body, acting in his or her official capacity on behalf of the state, or any county, city, district, or other political subdivision, shall pay or deposit any fee for the filing of any document or paper, for the performance of any official service, or for the filing of any stipulation or agreement that may constitute an appearance in any court by any other party to the stipulation or agreement. This section does not apply to civil jury fees or civil jury deposits. This section does not apply to the State Compensation Insurance Fund or where a public officer is acting with reference to private assets or obligations that have come under that officer's jurisdiction by virtue of his or her office, or where it is specifically provided otherwise. No fee shall be charged for the filing of a confession of judgment in favor of any of the public agencies named in this section.

No fee shall be charged any of the public agencies named in this section to defray the costs of reporting services by court reporters. Such fees shall be recoverable as costs as provided in Section 6103.5. *(Amended by Stats. 2008, Ch. 218, Sec. 2, Effective January 1, 2009.)*

27383 No fee shall be charged by the recorder for services rendered to the State, to any municipality, county in the State or other political subdivision thereof, except for making a copy of a paper or record. *(Added by Stats. 1955, Ch. 488.)*



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 25-168
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 07/16/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING KINGS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE
 MODIFYING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM AND USE OF

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER ((\$59) 241-6240
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS PO BOX 5199	CITY FRESNO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93755

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:


- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$4,123.50 \$ _____
- Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$2,968.75 \$ _____
- Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$1,401.75 \$ _____

- Exempt from fee
 - Notice of Exemption (attach)
 - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$850.00 \$ _____
- County documentary handling fee \$ _____
- Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other
TOTAL RECEIVED
 \$ \$0.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Reagan Richards, Deputy County Clerk/Recorder
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Kings County

Kristine Lee, Assessor/Clerk/Recorder
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 852-2470

Receipt: 25-14479

Product	Name	Extended
CEQA	CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL FILINGS	\$0.00
# Pages		4
Document #		25-168
Document		WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT
Info:		
Document	MODIFYING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM AND USE OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN	
Info:	THE WESTSIDE SUBBASIN (REGULATIONS)	
Total		\$0.00
Change (Cash)		\$0.00

Thank you!