Notice of Exemption

44-07292025-117
098-25

Appendix E

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

County Clerk
County of: Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 520
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From: (Public Agency): San Lorenzo Valley Water District
13060 CA-9 Boulder Creek, CA 95006
(Address)

RECEIVED
CLERK OF THE BOARD
JUL 29 2025
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

Project Title: Highland Tank Replacement Project

Project Applicant: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Project Location - Specific:

East side of Highland Drive, north of Debbie Drive

Project Location - City: Boulder Creek (unincorp) Project Location - County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Replacement of temporary polyethylene water tanks, installed to replace original leaking redwood tank, with larger fire-resistant steel tank that provides increased water supply storage capacity and fire flows for the existing service area, with no expansion of service, to address ongoing drought and fire risk.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Chris Klier

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 Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Emergency Project Statutory Exemption 15269(c) applies to this project because the project is being undertaken to prepare for and mitigate future emergencies similar to those that have occurred in the project vicinity in the past five years. In 2020, the CZU Lightning fire resulted in a declared emergency, and in 2021, a statewide emergency was declared due to drought (attached). The Exemption applies to projects that address events that have a reasonable probability of happening in the short-term.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Chris Klier Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-430-4638

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: 7/28/2025 Title: Environmental Programs Manager

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING 7/29/2025 AND ENDING 9/2/2025

Revised 2011

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

Print | StartOver | Save

RECEIPT NUMBER: **44-07292025-117**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(if applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
San Lorenzo Valley Water District		**7/29/2025**

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Santa Cruz	**098-25**

PROJECT TITLE

Highland Tank Replacement Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL		PHONE NUMBER
San Lorenzo Valley Water District			**831-430-4638**
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	**CITY**	**STATE**	**ZIP CODE**
13060 CA-9	**Boulder Creek**	**CA**	**95006**

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

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

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$	
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$	
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$	0.00
☐ 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)	$	0.00
☑ County documentary handling fee		50.00
☐ Other $50 Receipt #460818	$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☑ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ **50.00**

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X Lori Welch Bettencourt	Lori Welch Bettencourt, Admin. Aide

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT | COPY - CDFW/ASB | COPY - LEAD AGENCY | COPY - COUNTY CLERK | DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/2023)

Harris & Associates

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Klier, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
From: Emily Mastrelli, Shahira Ashkar, Harris & Associates
Subject: SLVWD Highland Tank Replacement Project
Date: July 22, 2025

Att: A. Emergency Proclamations

This memorandum provides supporting evidence for determining the Highland Tank Replacement Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Section 21080 (b)(4) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects.

Project Overview

San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) supplies water to approximately 23,700 customers in Santa Cruz County, serving an area of approximately 62 square miles. They currently operate and maintain two water systems, the SLVWD system, which serves unincorporated areas and several neighborhoods in and adjacent to Scotts Valley, and the SLVWD-Felton system, which serves Felton and several nearby neighborhoods.

SLVWD has received grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources – Urban Community Drought Relief program for Tank Replacement for the Improved Drought Resiliency (IDR) Project. The purpose of the IDR Project is to protect and increase water supply storage for SLVWD to enhance capacity and fire flows for the existing service area, with no expansion in service. The current project would replace three temporary 10,000-gallon polyethylene tanks with one 120,000-gallon fire-resistant steel tank. The temporary tanks were installed to replace the original 60,000-gallon redwood tank, which was leaking and in poor condition. The additional capacity would allow for storage in preparation for prolonged drought and increased capacity for firefighting when wildfires occur.

Project Description

The SLVWD Highland Tank Replacement Project (project) would remove the three existing temporary tanks (with total capacity of 30,000 gallons) and replace them with a single 120,000-gallon fire-resistant steel tank. The existing concrete pad, water piping, and other associated features would be demolished. A concrete tank foundation measuring 32 feet in diameter would be installed and a fire-resistant steel tank would be attached to the concrete foundation. The new tank would connect to existing intake pipes and include drainage features, pipes, and a debris wall along the upslope side of the tank. The new tank facilities would be fenced and gated.

The three temporary tanks would remain in place until the completion of the new steel tank. Afterwards, the temporary tanks, piping and appurtenances would be removed or grouted in place, and the connection to the main capped off. All asphalt and ground surface would be repaired.

Statutory Exemption (Emergency Projects)

The SLVWD Highland Tank Replacement Project is being undertaken to replace an existing temporary facility, which includes three temporary polyethylene (plastic) tanks that replaced the original redwood tank. The new steel tank would provide additional capacity to prepare for and mitigate future emergencies, like those that have occurred in the project area in the past five years, and is not intended to provide additional service capacity. Therefore, it is an emergency project as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15269.

The project is in an area that was designated a disaster-stricken area due to the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit (CZU) Lightning Fire in 2020 (FEMA Disaster FM-5226-CA). Additionally, in October of 2021, the Governor of California declared a statewide emergency related to a prolonged drought. Please refer to **Attachment A,** for Emergency Proclamations.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 addresses Statutory Exemptions for Emergency Projects. CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) exempts "specific actions taken to prevent or mitigate an emergency" from the requirements of CEQA. The exemption does not apply to long-term projects for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that have a low probability of occurring in the short term. Previous drought and fire conditions indicate that these are ongoing risks for the project area, are not of low probability, and may occur at any time.

Unlike Categorical Exemptions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300 to 15332), no exceptions are enumerated for Statutory Exemptions for Emergency Projects. In evaluating the application of a Categorical Exemption to a project, CEQA requires that exemptions be considered. These include impacts on scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources, and cumulative impacts. In some cases, the location of the project must also be considered to ensure that they are not affecting an environmentally sensitive area. Because these projects meet the criteria for the Statutory Exemption for Emergency Projects, it is not necessary to address these issues under CEQA.

Technical Studies to Mitigate Potential Impacts to Resources

Although not required by CEQA, technical studies addressing biological and cultural resources are underway to identify mitigation for potential impacts on resources.

Attachment A. Emergency Proclamations

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS beginning on August 14, 2020, an Extreme Heat Event struck California and surrounding Western states, causing record-breaking temperatures and Red Flag Warnings throughout California; and

WHEREAS on August 16, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to the Extreme Heat Event; and

WHEREAS in addition to the fire conditions being exacerbated by extreme temperatures, the weather event has resulted in widespread lightning strikes, sparking fires throughout the state; and

WHEREAS there are currently hundreds of fires actively burning during these extreme weather conditions throughout California, which have collectively burned tens of thousands of acres; and

WHEREAS the number of fires actively burning statewide, as well as throughout other Western states, has resulted in a strain on California's mutual aid system, making it increasingly difficult for jurisdictions to obtain the necessary in-state and out-of-state firefighting resources to respond to these fires; and

WHEREAS several of these fires, including the River Fire in Monterey County, the Jones Fire in Nevada County, and the Gamble Fire, Hennessy Fire, and other nearby fires (collectively referred to as the "LNU Lightning Complex Fire") in Napa County, have rapidly spread, destroying or threatening homes and critical infrastructure, and forcing the evacuations of thousands of residents; and

WHEREAS the Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved multiple Fire Management Assistant Grants to assist with the mitigation, management, and control of the River Fire, the Jones Fire, and the LNU Lightning Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS extremely high temperatures and dry conditions are expected to continue, which will further increase the spread of fires statewide and likely result in additional wildfires, further exacerbating the current wildfire situation in California; and

WHEREAS local and state regional emergency operations centers have been activated; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to fires statewide; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by fires, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and

require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these fires; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of fires statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in California due to fires burning statewide.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the State Emergency Plan. Also, to protect their safety, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

2. CalOES shall provide local government assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.

3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and safety, public and private property, and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, equipment, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these fires. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these fires.

4. The California National Guard is hereby mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts, as directed by CalOES, and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.

5. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of these fires who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning August 14, 2020, and ending on the close of business on February 14, 2021, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

6. Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of certain fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of a driver's identification card, vehicle registration certificate, or certificate of title, by any individual who lost such records as a result of these fires. Such records shall be replaced without charge.

7. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any resident who is unable to comply with those requirements as a result of these fires. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.

8. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who lost such records as a result of these fires. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

9. In order to directly respond to the needs of impacted assisted living facilities, adult residential facilities, child care facilities, children's residential facilities, resource family homes, and other similar facilities within the State Department of Social Services' jurisdiction, the Director of the State Department of Social Services may waive any provisions of the Health and Safety Code or Welfare and Institutions Code, and accompanying regulations or written directives, with respect to the use, licensing, or approval of facilities or homes within the Department's jurisdiction set forth in the California Community Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1500 et seq.), the California Child Day Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1596.70 et seq.), and the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act (Health and Safety Code section 1569 et seq.). Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department's website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of these fires.

10. In order to ensure hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities remain open, the Director of the Department of Public Health may waive any of the licensing requirements of Chapters 1 and 2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and

accompanying regulations with respect to any hospital, clinic or health facility identified in Health and Safety Code section 1250 that is impacted by the fire. Any waiver shall include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the facilities to remain open while protecting public health and safety. Any facilities being granted a waiver shall be established and operated in accordance with their disaster and mass casualty plan. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department's website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of these fires.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18th day of August 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout many portions of the State; and

WHEREAS recent warm temperatures and extremely dry soils have further depleted the expected runoff water from the Sierra-Cascade snowpack, resulting in a historic and unanticipated estimated reduction of 500,000 acre feet of water – or the equivalent of supplying water for up to one million households for one year – from reservoirs and stream systems, especially in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watersheds; and

WHEREAS the extreme drought conditions through much of the State present urgent challenges, including the risk of water shortages in communities, greatly increased wildfire activity, diminished water for agricultural production, degraded habitat for many fish and wildlife species, threat of saltwater contamination of large fresh water supplies conveyed through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and additional water scarcity if drought conditions continue into next year; and

WHEREAS Californians have saved water through conservation efforts, with urban water use approximately 16% below where it was at the start of the last drought years, and I encourage all Californians to undertake actions to further eliminate wasteful water practices and conserve water; and

WHEREAS on April 21, 2021, I issued a proclamation directing state agencies to take immediate action to bolster drought resilience and prepare for impacts on communities, businesses, and ecosystems, and proclaiming a State of Emergency to exist in Mendocino and Sonoma counties due to severe drought conditions in the Russian River Watershed; and

WHEREAS additional expedited actions are now needed in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watersheds; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to expeditiously mitigate the effects of the drought conditions within the Klamath River Watershed Counties (Del Norte, Humboldt, Modoc, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties), the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Counties (Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba counties), and the Tulare Lake Watershed Counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties) to ensure the protection of health, safety, and the environment; and

WHEREAS under Government Code Section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the drought conditions, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under Government Code Section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the drought conditions; and

WHEREAS to protect public health and safety, it is critical the State take certain immediate actions without undue delay to prepare for and mitigate the effects of, the drought conditions statewide, and under Government Code Section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought conditions in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watershed Counties.

NOW THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watershed Counties due to drought.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The orders and provisions contained in my April 21, 2021 Proclamation remain in full force and effect, except as modified. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from that proclamation and accelerate implementation where feasible.

2. To ensure that equipment and services necessary for drought response can be procured quickly, the provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code applicable to procurement, state contracts, and fleet assets, including, but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements, are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of the drought in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watershed Counties. Approval of the Department of Finance is required prior to the execution of any contract entered into pursuant to this provision.

3. To support voluntary approaches where hydrology and other conditions allow, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall expeditiously consider requests to move water, where appropriate, to areas of need, including requests involving voluntary water transfers, forbearance agreements, water exchanges, or other means. Specifically, the Department of Water Resources and Water Board shall prioritize transfers that retain a higher percentage of water in upstream reservoirs on the Sacramento, Feather, and American Rivers for release later in the year. If necessary, the Department of Water Resources shall request that the Water Board consider changes to water rights permits to enable such voluntary movements of water. For actions taken in the Klamath River and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Counties pursuant to this paragraph, the following requirements of the Water Code are suspended:

    a. Section 1726(d) requirements for written notice and newspaper publication, provided that the Water Board shall post notice on its website and provide notice through electronic subscription services where interested persons can request information about temporary changes; and

b. Section 1726(f) requirement of a 30-day comment period, provided that the Water Board shall afford a 15-day comment period.

4. To ensure adequate, minimal water supplies for purposes of health, safety, and the environment, the Water Board shall consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations—including where existing requirements were established to implement a water quality control plan—to conserve water upstream later in the year in order to protect cold water pools for salmon and steelhead, improve water quality, protect carry over storage, or ensure minimum health and safety water supplies. The Water Board shall require monitoring and evaluation of any such changes to inform future actions. For actions taken in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Counties pursuant to this paragraph, Water Code Section 13247 is suspended.

5. To ensure protection of water needed for health, safety, and the environment in the Klamath River and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Counties, the Water Board shall consider emergency regulations to curtail water diversions when water is not available at water right holders' priority of right or to protect releases of stored water. The Department of Water Resources shall provide technical assistance to the Water Board that may be needed to develop appropriate water accounting for these purposes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed.

6. To ensure critical instream flows for species protection in the Klamath River and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watersheds, the Water Board and Department of Fish and Wildlife shall evaluate the minimum instream flows and other actions needed to protect salmon, steelhead, and other native fishes in critical streams systems in the State and work with water users and other parties on voluntary measures to implement those actions. To the extent voluntary actions are not sufficient, the Water Board, in coordination with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall consider emergency regulations to establish minimum drought instream flows.

7. Operative paragraph 4 of my April 21, 2021 Proclamation is withdrawn and superseded by the following, which shall apply to the Russian River Watershed identified in my April 21, 2021 Proclamation as well as the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watershed Counties:

   To prioritize drought response and preparedness resources, the Department of Water Resources, the Water Board, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Finance, shall:

   a. Accelerate funding for water supply enhancement, water conservation, or species conservation projects.
   b. Identify unspent funds that can be repurposed to enable projects to address drought impacts to people, ecosystems, and economic activities.
   c. Recommend additional financial support for groundwater substitution pumping to support Pacific flyway habitat needs in the lower Sacramento River and Feather River portions of the Central Valley in the Fall of 2021.

8. Consistent with operative paragraph 13 of my April 21, 2021 Proclamation, the Department of Water Resources shall take actions, if necessary, to implement plans that address potential Delta salinity issues. Such actions may include, among other things, the installation and removal of, Emergency Drought Salinity Barriers at locations within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. These barriers shall be designed to conserve water for use later in the year to meet state and federal Endangered Species Act requirements, preserve to the extent possible water quality in the Delta, and retain water supply for human health and safety uses. The Water Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall immediately consider any necessary regulatory approvals needed to install Emergency Drought Salinity Barriers. For actions taken pursuant to this paragraph, Section 13247 and the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 85225) of Part 3 of Division 35 of the Water Code are suspended.

9. To support the movement of water from areas of relative plenty to areas of relative scarcity in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Tulare Lake Watershed Counties, the Department of Water Resources shall expedite the consideration and, where appropriate, the implementation of pump-back delivery of water through the State Water Project on behalf of local water agencies.

10. To proactively prevent situations where a community runs out of drinking water, the Water Board, the Department of Water Resources, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Office of Planning and Research shall assist local agencies in identifying acute drinking water shortages in domestic water supplies, and shall work with local agencies in implementing solutions to those water shortages.

11. For purposes of carrying out or approving any actions contemplated by the directives in operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9, the environmental review by state agencies required by the California Environmental Quality Act in Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Tulare Lake Watershed Counties. For purposes of carrying out the directive in operative paragraph 10, for any (a) actions taken by the listed state agencies pursuant to that directive, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the Office of Planning and Research concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b), Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought in counties where the Governor has proclaimed a drought state of emergency. The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

12. To ensure transparency in state agency actions, the Water Board and Department of Water Resources will maintain on their websites a list of the activities or approvals by their agencies for which provisions of the Water Code are suspended under operative paragraphs 3, 4, or 8 of this proclamation.

13. To ensure that posting and dissemination of information related to drought emergency activities is not delayed while accessible versions of that information are being created, Government Code Sections 7405 and 11546.7 are hereby suspended as they pertain to the posting of materials on state agency websites as part of responding to the drought emergency, provided that any state agencies failing to satisfy these code sections shall make and post an accessible version on their websites as soon as practicable.

This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 10th day of May 2021.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State