

# Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Notice of Exemption

**To:** Kern County Clerk  
1115 Truxton Ave., First Floor  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

State Clearing House  
State of California  
1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, 1001 Chase Avenue, Corcoran CA 93212

**Project Title:** SWP Water Banking and Exchange between Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Kern County Water Agency.

**Project Location – Specific:** Kern County Water Agency Service Area

**Project Location – City:** Bakersfield    **Project Location – County:** Kern and Kings County

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) is requesting approval to transfer up to 10,000 acre-feet of its 2025 and 2026 State Water Project Water to the Kern County Water Agency in 2026 for banking at a ratio of 2:1 in Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District on behalf of County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County (L.A. San). Deliveries will be completed by December 31, 2026. This proposed exchange is designed to enable L.A. San to better manage its respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the exchange and no additional groundwater will be pumped.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, Kern County Water Agency, and the California Department of Water Resources.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District  
**Exempt Status:**

- 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 (Sec. 15301);
- Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 15061(b)3)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. TLBWSD finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
3. There will be no change in land use.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Cameron Battli

**Telephone:** (559) 992-4127

# Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Notice of Exemption

**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



Signature

August 19, 2025

Date

General Manager

Title

# Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Finding of Exemption

**Project Title:** SWP Water Banking and Exchange between Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District and Kern County Water Agency.

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) is requesting approval to transfer up to 10,000 acre-feet of its 2025 and 2026 State Water Project Water to the Kern County Water Agency in 2026 for banking at a ratio of 2:1 in Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District on behalf of County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County (L.A. San). Deliveries will be completed by December 31, 2026. This proposed exchange is designed to enable L.A. San to better manage its respective water supplies. No lands will be fallowed as a result of the exchange and no additional groundwater will be pumped.

**Entity or Person Undertaking Project:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District  
Cameron Bath  
1001 Chase Avenue  
Corcoran, CA 93212  
559-992-4127

**Recommendation:** Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)  
A. Applicable Exemption Class: I
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

**Brief statement of reasons why project is exempt:** CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This transfer exclusively utilizes existing facilities. Additionally, CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)3 provides that a Lead Agency may determine an activity to be exempt based on a general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. TLBWSD finds that approval of the proposed water transfer has no possibility of significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed action consists of a one-time water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading.
- 2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.
- 3. There will be no change in land use.

**Name of Lead Agency:** Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

**Date:** August 19, 2025

  
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Jacob Westra, General Manager