Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

X County Clerk
County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: (Public Agency)
Semitropic Water Storage District
1101 Central Ave., Wasco CA 93280-0877

Project Title: Schuster Subsurface Recharge Project (Project)

Project Location: The Schuster Subsurface Recharge Project is located within the boundaries of the Semitropic Water Storage District ("District") located within an unincorporated area of Kern County, California, near the intersection of Highway 43 and Schuster Avenue. Also see Exhibit A, attached hereto, which is a map showing location of Project.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Schuster Subsurface Recharge Project consists of construction of a 100-acre subsurface recharge site consisting of a network of buried pipeline infiltration gallery spanning the entire parcel, equipped with a filtration system to filter the water prior to introduction to the infiltration gallery, metered connections to record deliveries to the site, and a dedicated monitoring system to monitor water levels. The pipeline infiltration gallery includes approximately 2,755 linear feet of mainline subsurface pipeline ranging in diameter from 8- to 15-inches, and approximately 42,775 linear feet of lateral subsurface pipeline ranging in diameter from 4- to 6-inches. The filtration system includes three gravity screen filter stations with electrical tie-in. The metered connections include the construction of three new turnouts ranging in diameter from 10- to 12-inches equipped with flowmeters, discharge pipeline and pipeline appurtenances. The monitoring network includes monitoring wells, equipped with dataloggers to record water levels. The subsurface recharge facilities would be installed in a fallow agricultural field owned by the District that is currently used for surface recharge. Project construction will involve minor trenching and backfilling such that the surface is restored to substantially the same condition as before the Project, and will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The recharge facility will be used to recharge available surface water supplies in the underlying aquifer and assist in achieving sustainable groundwater management within the boundaries of the District and its groundwater sustainability agency (GSA). Landowners and water users within the District and the GSA will benefit from the Project and it will have substantially the same capacity and purpose as the surface recharge facility that the Project is replacing.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Exempt Status:

___ Ministerial.

___ Declared Emergency.

___ Emergency Project.

_X_ **Categorical Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15302, 15303, and 15304.

___ Statutory Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: Semitropic Water Storage District (District) has found and determined that the Project is categorically exemption pursuant to CEQA for the following reasons:

The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review as a replacement of an existing recharge facility pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15302 (Class 2), which includes, but is not limited to, "[r]eplacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity." The Project is also categorically exempt from CEQA review as consisting of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities and/or structures pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15303 (Class 3), which includes, but is not limited to, "water main, … and other utility extensions…." The Project is also categorically exempt from CEQA review as consisting of minor alterations in the condition of land which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees except for agricultural purposes pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304 (Class 4), which includes, but is not limited to "minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored." Finally, the District has also found and determined, based on substantial evidence, that none of the exceptions to the Class 2, 3, or 4 categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Jason Gianquinto, General Manager
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 758-5113

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

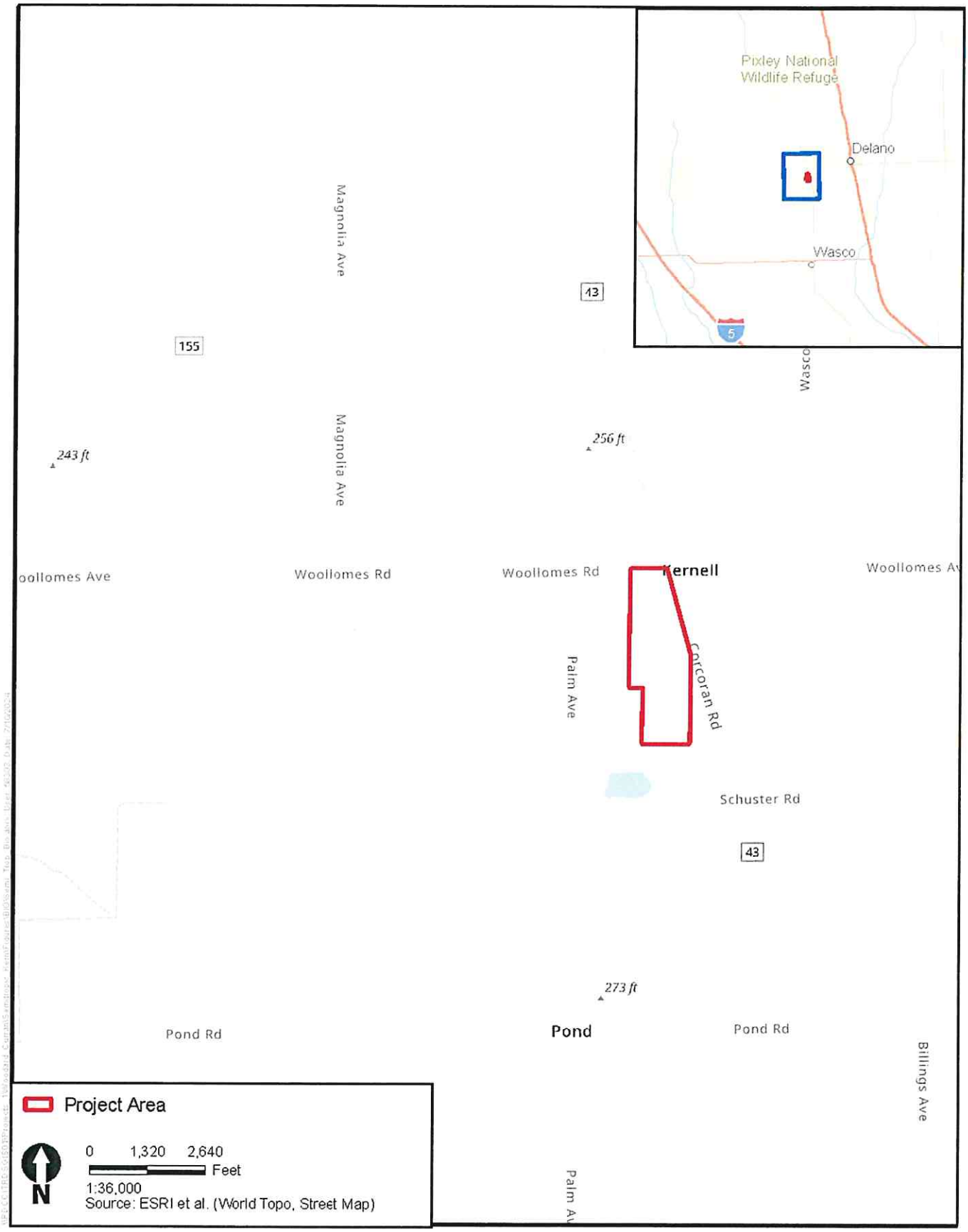
Signature: _____ Date: 10 SEP 2025 Title: General Manager

× Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

EXHIBIT A


Pixley National Wildlife Refuge
Delano
Wasco
5
Wasco
Magnolia Ave
43
155
Magnolia Ave
243 ft
256 ft
oollomes Ave
Woollomes Rd
Woollomes Rd
Kernell
Woollomes Av
Palm Ave
Corcoran Rd
Schuster Rd
43
273 ft
Pond Rd
Pond
Pond Rd
Billings Ave
Palm Av
Project Area
0 1,320 2,640
Feet
1:36,000
Source: ESRI et al. (World Topo, Street Map)
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