25-195

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

SEP 24 2025

KRISTINE LEE
KINGS COUNTY CLERK

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that on the date below I posted a copy of this notice in the office of the County Clerk that said notice remained posted for 30 days.
Date 9/24/25
KRISTINE LEE, County Clerk Recorder
By _____ Deputy

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 1.21 considers any changes or revisions to the Rules and Regulations at a public meeting. The proposed language is based on input received from the August 2025 Board meeting.

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));
- X Categorical Exemptions. CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), §15307, §15308, and §15378
- X 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, June 17th, 2025, and September 16th, 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 and §15308 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Project is not considered a "Project" as it does not have potential for direct or indirect physical change in the environment under CEQA Guideline §15378, thus the Project categorically exempt.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Stephen Farmer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6240

If filed by applicant:

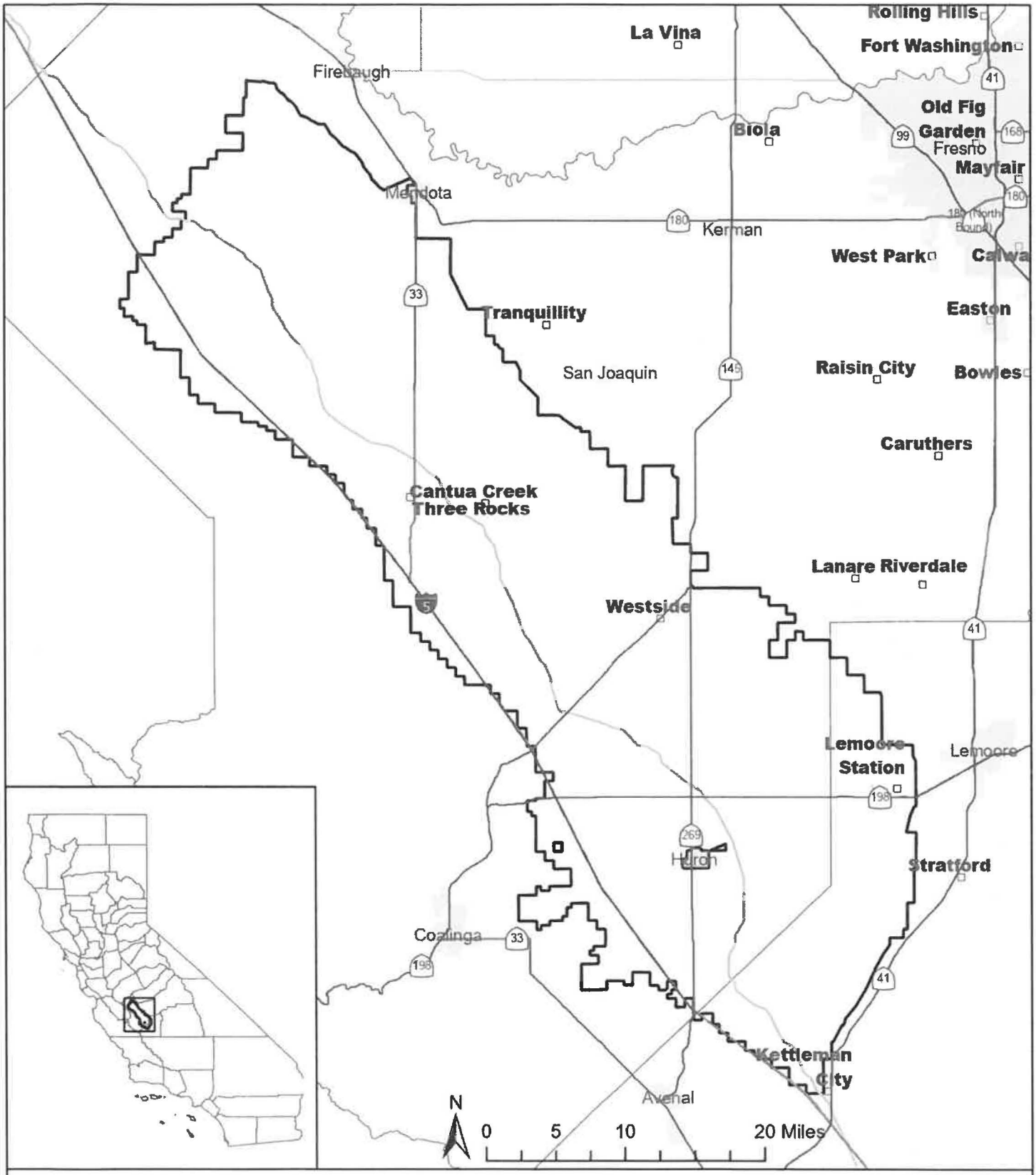
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐YES☐NO

Signature: _____ Date: 2025.09.23 Title: Assistant General Manager

X 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.



Legend

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

Figure 1
District Map

Westlands Water District

R:\DWGS\Archived\2022\2022-W-0039\Water Management Plan\Water Management Plan.aprx

Date Exported: 7/15/2025

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: 25-195

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT		09/24/2025

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
KINGS	

PROJECT TITLE

MODIFYING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM AND USE OF

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT, SERVING AS THE		(($59) 241-6240

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
PO BOX 5199	FRESNO	CA	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
X Myla Lewis	Myla Lewis, Deputy County Clerk/Recorder

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT COPY - CDFW/ASB COPY - LEAD AGENCY COPY - COUNTY CLERK DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01012025)

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

Receipt: 25-19305

Product	Name	Extended
CEQA	CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL FILINGS	$0.00
# Pages		1
Document #		25-195
Document Info:		WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT
Document Info:	MODIFYING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM AND USE OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE WESTSIDE SUBBASIN (REGULATIONS)	
Total		$0.00
Change (Cash)		$0.00

Thank you!

9/24/25 12:07 PM PST R071