

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: County of Merced

2222 M Street

Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): Merced Irrigation District

744 W. 20th Street

Merced, CA 95340

(Address)

Project Title: Flood Diversion Recharge Enhancement Portable Pump Project

Project Applicant: Merced Irrigation District

Project Location - Specific:

3321 N Franklin Rd, Merced, CA 95348

Project Location - City: Merced

Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The primary purpose of this project is to support the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Initiative. Through the FDRE Initiative, DWR is funding local activities to reduce flood risk and enhance groundwater recharge by increasing the volume of flood flows diverted to recharge areas. This project provides the Merced Irrigation District (MID) with a portable pump, a fish screen, and appurtenances to achieve general readiness for temporary deployment during future high-flow events. The beneficiaries of this project are the District and local communities, who will benefit from reduced flood risk and enhanced water supplies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Merced Irrigation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Merced Irrigation District

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: CEQA Guidelines 15301 (class 1), 15304 (class 4), 15306 (class 6)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is exempt from CEQA because it falls within the so-called "common sense" exemption, which indicates that CEQA only applies to projects that have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed actions are categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines: §15306 (Class 6), covering basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities; §15301 (Class 1), covering minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features; and §15304 (Class 4), which covers minor alterations to the condition of land or water.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Stephen Ho

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-722-5761

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: 9/26/25

Title: WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Project Title: Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Initiative – Portable Pump Project

Description of Project:

The primary purpose of this project is to support the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Initiative. Through the FDRE Initiative, DWR provides funding to public agencies to reduce flood risk and enhance groundwater recharge by increasing the volume of flood flows diverted to recharge areas. This project provides the District with a portable pump, portable fish screens, and appurtenances to achieve general readiness for temporary deployment during future high-flow events. The beneficiaries of this project include the District and local communities, who will benefit from reduced flood risk and enhanced water supplies. While the physical diversions are outside the scope of this project, it is noted that they will most notably only occur during times of emergency and that all efforts will be made to follow the rules and regulations of the emergency declaration times, as needed.

Project Exemption:

This project is exempt from CEQA as its scope is confined to the administrative procurement of equipment and does not entail physical construction, ground disturbance, or pumping activities.

- CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6 - Information Collection): The procurement of a portable pump and appurtenances is considered "experimental management and resource evaluation activities". The project's purpose is to enable readiness for flood-managed aquifer recharge, which is a key component of DWR's initiative. This action will not result in disturbance to the environment.
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 - Existing Facilities): The purchase of this equipment is exempt because it is intended to be stored and eventually used in existing locations. The project does not involve any expansion of these facilities.
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land): The equipment is being acquired to facilitate minor alterations to the condition of land and water for the temporary purpose of groundwater recharge. These activities will have negligible or no permanent effect on the environment.