Print Form

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: California Stream Gage Improvement Program

Project Applicant: Merced Irrigation District

Project Location - Specific:
Various - Eastern Merced County

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The primary purpose of the project is to improve stream gage infrastructure and data availability as part of the Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). Through the CalSIP program, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is actively improving California's stream gage network by funding public agencies to upgrade existing gages, reactivate historical gages, or install new gages on natural waterways across the state. Merced Irrigation District (MID) has been selected as an implementing agency to carry out repairs and upgrades of flow measurement stations at four locations in eastern Merced County.

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 Guidleines 15301 (class 1), 15302 (class 2), 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 pursuant to CEQA guidelines, section 15061(b)(3), 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: §15301 (class 1), covering operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures; §15303 (class 2), covering the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities; §15304 (class 4) covering minor public or private alterations to the condition of land or water; §15306 (class 6) covering data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities.

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: _____

Revised 2011

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Project Title: California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) Initiative – Merced ID Data sharing

Description of Project:

The primary purpose of this project is to improve stream gage infrastructure and data availability as part of the California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). Through this program, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides funding to public agencies to upgrade, reactivate, or install new gages to enhance the state's stream gage network. The project, implemented by the Merced Irrigation District (MID), will carry out repairs and upgrades of flow measurement stations at four locations in eastern Merced County to provide real-time stream data to the public.

Project Exemption:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1)

- Bear Creek at Le Grand Canal (Upgrade): The project consists of minor alterations to an existing public facility. The work, which potentially includes installing a new wire weight gage and conducting flow measurements, does not involve any significant expansion of the existing use but improves its function.
- Bear Creek at Fairfield Canal (Upgrade): This is a minor alteration to an existing public facility, as it focuses on potentially installing a staff gage and conducting flow measurements. This work fits the description of a minor alteration and does not involve any expansion of the existing use.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 (Class 2)

- Merced Falls Forebay (Reactivation): The proposed work, which involves reactivating a historical site by potentially installing a new data logger and telemetry system within an existing recorder hut, is a reconstruction of an existing facility. It has substantially the same purpose and capacity as the original, allowing for the re-establishment of a historical data record.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6)

- Miles Creek at Cunningham (Upgrade): The project's primary purpose is basic data collection and resource evaluation. The work involves potentially bringing the station into the CDEC system with a new data logger and telemetry to make its data publicly available, which is an information gathering activity that does not result in any environmental disturbance.