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: Los Angeles
12400 East Imperial Hwy, Rm 2001
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK)
6500 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551
(Address)

Project Title: Water Storage Program between AVEK & Metropolitan Water District of Southern Ca. (MWDSC)

Project Applicant: Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK)

Project Location - Specific:

Kern & Los Angeles Counties. Program will occur within service boundaries of AVEK & MWDSC.

Project Location - City: Various Project Location - County: Kern, Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

To improve water reliability, AVEK will store up to 30,000 AF of MWDSC SWP supplies within AVEK's groundwater banking locations in the Antelope Valley. All stored water will be returned to MWDSC from AVEK less banking losses as agreed upon by AVEK and MWDSC.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Ca. Dept. of Water Resources, AVEK, & MWDSC

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: AVEK & MWDSC

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: Class 1, Sec. 15301: Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This program is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class 1 categorical exemption (14 C.C.R. § 15301) because it involves the use of existing publicly owned water facilities within the boundaries of AVEK & MWDSC. Water transfer & storage involves imported water delivered through the SWP CA Aqueduct that would otherwise be consumed by MWDSC.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tom Barnes Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-943-3201

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: Tom Barnes Date: 10/14/2025 Title: Water Resource Manager

▪ 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: _____