Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: X Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

X Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: (Public Agency):
Kern Water Bank Authority
1620 Mill Rock Way, Suite 500
Bakersfield, CA 93311

(Address)

Project Title: Strand Ranch Construction and Joint Use of Facilities

Project Location - Specific: Sections 2, 3 and 11, Township 30 South, Range 25 East, M.D.M. The project location is also depicted on the map attached as Exhibit A hereto.

Project Location - City: N/A **Project Location – County: Kern**

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project consists of agreements between Kern Water Bank Authority (KWBA), Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and Rosedale Rio-Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale or RRBWSD) providing for KWBA's construction and use of a new turnout (Strand Ranch Connection Turnout) and use of an existing turnout on the Cross Valley Canal (South Strand Turnout), on or adjacent to the Strand Ranch property owned by IRWD and/or Cross Valley Canal, to provide for continued conveyance of water to the adjacent and nearby Kern Water Bank properties owned by KWBA, and KWBA's removal of the existing Strand Siphons from the Cross Valley Canal and adjacent property. Project agreements also provide for IRWD's and Rosedale's continued use of the Rosedale's Return Pipeline from IRWD's lands known as Stockdale West to the Cross Valley Canal, which pipeline crosses KWBA's property. The project will benefit the adjacent and nearby lands and water banking facilities owned by KWBA, IRWD and Rosedale, as well as the beneficiaries thereof including their member entities, banking partners, landowners, and water users.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Kern Water Bank Authority; Irvine Ranch Water District; Rosedale Rio-Bravo Water Storage District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Kern Water Bank Authority; Irvine Ranch Water District; Rosedale Rio-Bravo Water Storage District

Exempt Status:

_X_ Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15301, 15302, 15303, 15304.

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA review because the project: (1) allows for continued joint use of water conveyance facilities involving negligible or no expansion in existing or former use pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Class 1); and/or (2) consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structures (Strand Ranch Construction Turnout) will be located on the same general site as the structures replaced (Strand Siphons) and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity of the structures replaced pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302 (Class 2); and/or (3) consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, i.e., a turnout, pursuant to

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15303 (Class 3); and/or (4) makes minor alterations to the condition of land, which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304 (Class 4). It has also been found and determined based on substantial evidence, that none of the exceptions to the Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply

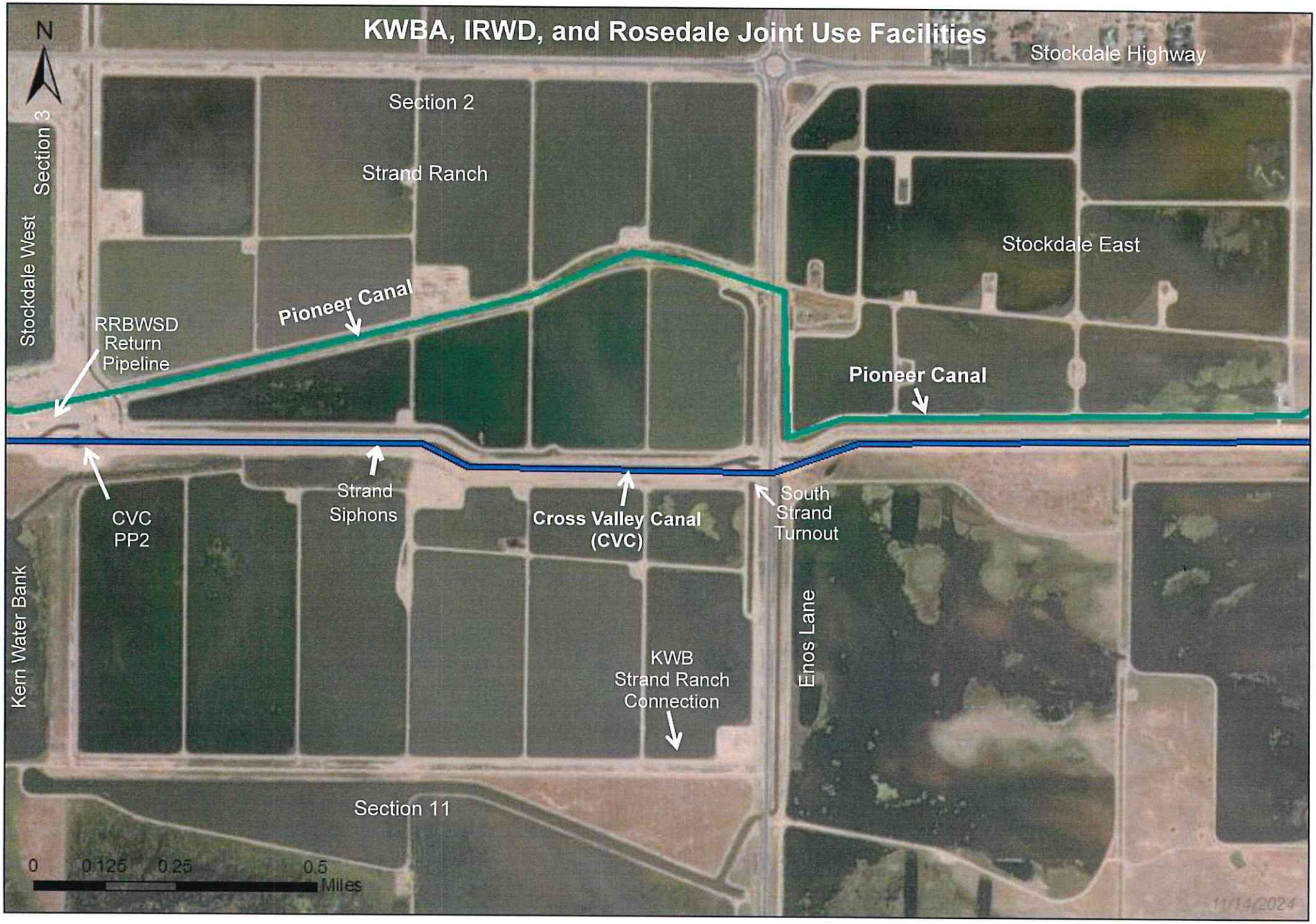
Lead Agency
Contact Person: Joe Butkiewicz, General Manager
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 398.4900

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: 10-14-2025 Title: General Manager

× Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR

Exhibit "A"


KWBA, IRWD, and Rosedale Joint Use Facilities
N
Stockdale Highway
Section 2
Section 3
Strand Ranch
Stockdale West
Stockdale East
Pioneer Canal
RRBWSD
Return
Pipeline
Pioneer Canal
CVC
PP2
Strand
Siphons
Cross Valley Canal
(CVC)
South
Strand
Turnout
Kern Water Bank
Enos Lane
KWB
Strand Ranch
Connection
Section 11
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
Miles
11/14/2024