

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: Santa Clara

From: (Public Agency): Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

(Address)

Project Title: 2025 CVP Water Transfer Agreement between Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Benito County Water District

Project Applicant: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Project Location - Specific:

various

Project Location - City: various

Project Location - County: San Benito and Santa Clara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

San Benito County Water District (San Benito) and Valley Water are both Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) South of Delta Accelerated Water Transfer Program (AWTP). The AWTP operates under a five-year term and is meant to facilitate efficient water management between CVP contractors through annual transfers or exchanges while reducing costs and redundant environmental reviews associated with these transactions. Valley Water proposes to request that Reclamation transfer 3,000 acre-feet (AF) of Valley Water's CVP supplies to San Benito in 2025 prior to the termination of the current five-year agreement on February 28, 2026. Once the Agreement is signed, Valley Water will apply for approval of this water transfer from Reclamation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara Valley Water 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: §15301, Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This transfer consists of the contractual right to convey water involving the continued operation of existing water supply diversion, storage, and conveyance facilities. No new facilities are necessary, and Valley Water's annual water supply use would not change. The action would involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former uses and facilities. These activities meet the parameters of utilization of existing facilities described in CEQA Guidelines §15301. The activities called out in the Agreement all meet the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15301 and are eligible for the Exemption. The Agreement does not include or allow any factors that would preempt the Project's eligibility per CEQA Guidelines §15300.2.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lisa Holm Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (408) 630-3241

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: Lisa Holm Date: 12/4/25 Title: Associate Environmental Planner

■ 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: _____