

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: _____

From: (Public Agency): Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

(Address)

Project Title: Lower San Joaquin Levee District Critical Erosion Repairs

Project Applicant: Lower San Joaquin Levee District

Project Location - Specific:

Eastside Bypass Levee (37.252706, -120.792586)

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the Project is to address three critical erosion sites located on the waterside of the Eastside Bypass levee along Bear Creek. These sites suffered severe erosion during the 2022-2023 winter storms, resulting in conditions that threaten the integrity of the levee. The Project involves grading and placing rock slope protection (RSP) in the channel and along the bank at a stable horizontal/vertical ratio of 2:1 slope, directly on the existing channel embankment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lower San Joaquin Levee 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: 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

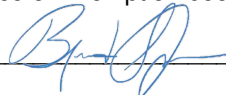
The Project will result in repairs to an existing levee along the Bear Creek portion of the Eastside Bypass. The repairs are consistent with the function and sope of the existing levee.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Brandon Salazar Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-445-6278

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: 12/16/2025 Title: Water Resource Control Egnineer

☒ 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: _____