

Empire West Side Irrigation District

Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk
County of Kings
Kings County Gov. Center
Hanford, CA 93230

State Clearing House
State of California
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Empire West Side Irrigation District, 21990 Laurel Ave, P.O. Box 66 Stratford, CA 93266

Project Title: 2026 Article 56.C Carryover Transfer from Empire West Side Irrigation District to County of Kings of 467 Acre-feet.

Project Location – Specific: County of Kings State Water Project Service Area

Project Location – City: Stratford

Project Location – County: Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Empire West Side Irrigation District (District) will transfer 467 acre-feet (AF) of its Article 56.C State Water Project Carryover to Kings County for Stone Land Company, who farms in both districts. The transfer will be completed in 2026. The lands have been actively farmed in the past.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District, County of Kings, and the California Department of Water Resources.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Exempt Status:

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Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

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Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

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Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

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Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301);

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Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729)

Reasons why project is exempt: The EWSID has determined that there are no foreseeable environmental impacts because both lands have been actively farmed, no new land has been developed, and there is no physical change associated with this project. The single year transfer is also exempt from CEQA under Water Code Section 1729. Further, the transfer is categorically exempt under CEQA since it involves the use and operation of an existing facility (CEQA Guidelines 15301).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Sills

Telephone: 559-923-6680

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

Scott Sills

January 5, 2026

General Manager

Scott Sills

Date

Title