

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Merced County Clerk
2222 M Street
Merced, California 95340

Stanislaus County Clerk
1021 I Street, Suite 101
Modesto, California 95354

Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

From: East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater
Sustainability Agency
731 East Yosemite Ave, Suite B, # 318
Merced, CA 95340

Project Title: East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Credit Split Policy

Project Location – Specific: Within the boundaries of the East Turlock Subbasin GSA (see attached Exhibit “A” for map).

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Merced and
Stanislaus

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project is to adopt and implement the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“ETSGSA”) Credit Split Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit “B”, within ETSGSA’s jurisdiction. The Credit Split Policy is a component of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act within ETSGSA’s jurisdiction, including implementation of Projects and Management Actions contained in the Revised Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“Revised Turlock GSP”). These include but are not limited to Project Numbers 12 to 18 which focus on reducing groundwater use and increasing recharge of the aquifer, when possible. The Credit Split Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit “B”, supplements ETSGSA’s Rules and Regulations and further defines ETSGSA’s requirements for landowner eligibility, program approach, and implementation procedures.

The purpose of the Credit Split Policy is to further define the exact amount of Consumed Surface Water Credit and/or Recharge Credit available to a Water Account Holder that uses surface water for irrigation in lieu of groundwater, or that operates a Recharge Facility to supply direct recharge to the aquifer, and specifies criteria for receipt of applicable credits. The amount of credit available depends on the apportionment of project costs and benefits between the Water Account Holder and ETSGSA as established by ETSGSA’s Board of Directors and in recognition of the relative proportion of funding for the project provided by ETSGSA and the investment made by a Water Account Holder through installation of a surface water supply and/or recharge project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: East Turlock Subbasin GSA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: East Turlock Subbasin GSA

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 7 – Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15307; Class 8 – Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15308; Common Sense Exemption – Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15061, subd. (b)(3);
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption. State code number:**

Reasons why project is exempt:

The adoption of the Credit Split Policy is an action taken by ETSGSA as authorized by SGMA for the protection of natural resources and the environment, which is categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 and 15308.

As the Credit Policy itself does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment by themselves, the common sense exemption applies pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). Separate and underlying projects and management actions will undergo CEQA analysis as required.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mike Tietze **Area Code/Telephone/Ext:** (916) 200-9038

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: Karen L. Whiting **Date:** 01-22-2026 **Title:** Board Secretary

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency
- ☐ Signed by Applicant

EXHIBIT “A”

MAP OF EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA BOUNDARIES

EXHIBIT “B”

ETSGSA CREDIT SPLIT POLICY