

Empire West Side Irrigation District Finding of Exemption

Project Title: Article 56.C Carryover Transfer from Empire West Side Irrigation District to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District of 91 acre-feet.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID) will transfer 91 acre-feet (AF) of Westlake Farms, a landowner in EWSID, Article 56.C State Water Project Carryover to Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) for Sanitation District No. 2, a landowner in TLBWSD. The transfer will be completed in 2026.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project: Empire West Side Irrigation District
Scott Sills
P.O. Box 66
Stratford, CA 93266
559-352-7947

Recommendation: Staff, having undertaken and completed a review of this project for CEQA compliance, has determined that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:

- 1. The proposed action does not constitute a project (Guidelines, section 15378).
- 2. This project is a ministerial project (Guidelines, sections 15369, 15268).
- 3. The project is an emergency project (Guidelines, sections 15269, 15359).
- 4. The project is categorically exempt (Guidelines, Article 19, sections 15300-15329)
A. Applicable Exemption Class: 1
- 5. No foreseeable impacts on the environment (Guidelines, section 15061(b)(3)).
- 6. Statutory Exemption (CA Water Code 1729).

Brief statement of 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).

Name of Lead Agency: Empire West Side Irrigation District

Date: February 5, 2026



Scott Sills, General Manager