

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation Attn: State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, California 95814	From:	Department of Water Resources Water Management P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, California 94236-0001
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Project Title	Common Landowner Transfer of Empire West Side Irrigation District's State Water Project Article 56 Carryover Water to County of Kings on behalf of Stone Land Company (SWP #26003)
Location- Specific	From the Delta to Westlands Water Districts' (Westlands') turnout(s) in Reach 6 of the California Aqueduct of the State Water Project (SWP).
Location- County	Kings County
Description of Activity	SWP #26003 provides for the transfer and delivery of 467 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's (Empire's) Article 56 Carryover water to County of Kings (Kings). The request was made on behalf of landowner Stone Land Company, which farms in both Empire's and Kings' service areas. The transfer of water shall be completed by December 31, 2026, for use in Kings' service area. Kings will take delivery of the transferred Article 56 Carryover Water through Westlands' turnout(s) at Reach 6 of the California Aqueduct.
Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying out Activity	Empire (local agency), Kings (local agency), Westlands (local agency), DWR (state agency)
Exempt Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729
Reasons why activity is exempt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> State Water Project long-term water supply contracts include provisions for delivery within SWP place of use, including transfers between SWP contractors. No construction is required to implement the proposed delivery. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed delivery. There will be no change in land use as a result of this short-term transfer.
DWR Contact Person	Patrick Luzuriaga Telephone: 916-820-7778

Signature:

Molly White

Molly White
Assistant Division Manager, Water Management
Division of Operations and Maintenance
State Water Project

Date:

2/23/2026