

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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| <b>To:</b> | Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation<br>Attn: State Clearinghouse<br>1400 Tenth Street<br>Sacramento, CA 95814 | <b>From:</b> | Department of Water Resources<br>Water Management<br>P.O. Box 942836<br>Sacramento, California 94236-0001 |
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| <b>Project Title</b>   | Conveyance of Non-Project Water to San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SWP #26002)  |
| <b>Location- Specific</b>  | From Reach 12E of the California Aqueduct to Reach 4A and/or 4B of California Aqueduct’s East Branch Extension  |
| <b>Location- County</b>  | Kern, Los Angeles, and Riverside Counties   |
| <b>Description of Activity</b>                                       | SWP #26002 provides for the conveyance of up to 1,700 acre-feet of Non-Project Water to San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (San Gorgonio). This Non-Project Water is “Nickel Water” located in Kern County. Following a series of four purchase agreements, executed between 2001-2017, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) acquired the rights to take annual delivery of 1,700 acre-feet of “Nickel Water.” San Gorgonio subsequently purchased the 1,700 acre-feet of “Nickel Water” annually from AVEK for years 2017 through 2036, as described in the July 7, 2017, Water Supply Agreement between San Gorgonio and AVEK. Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) will make the Non-Project Water available in Reach 12E of the California Aqueduct for subsequent delivery by DWR to San Gorgonio’s service area. The conveyance of the Non-Project Water to San Gorgonio shall be completed by December 31, 2026. |
| <b>Name of Public Agency(ies) Approving or Carrying out Activity</b> | San Gorgonio (Local Agency), AVEK (Local Agency), KCWA (Local Agency), and DWR (State Agency)   |
| <b>Exempt Status</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facility<br><input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729   |
| <b>Reasons why activity is exempt</b>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for conveyance of non-project water to SWP contractors.</li> <li>The project is a water management operation using only existing facilities.</li> <li>The project will not support new development or a change in land use.</li> <li>The project does not establish a new permanent source of water supply.</li> </ol>   |

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| <b>DWR Contact Person</b> | Patrick Luzuriaga<br>Telephone: 916-820-7778 |
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| Signature:<br><i>Molly White</i><br>Molly White<br>Assistant Division Manager, Water Management<br>Division of Operations and Maintenance<br>State Water Project | Date:<br>3/17/2026 |
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