

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Arvin-Edison WSD
20401 E Bear Mountain Blvd
Arvin, CA 93203

County Clerk
County of: Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639

(Address)

RECEIVED
KERN COUNTY

MAR 18 2026

Project Title: Emergency Initial Golden Mussel Treatment

Project Applicant: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

Project Location - Specific:

Existing AEWSW water infrastructure including concrete lined canals and distribution pipelines.

Project Location - City: Arvin Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The District proposes to enter and implement a contract for application of a molluscicide to District's existing water infrastructure. The first application is intended to eradicate established adult and juvenile mussels throughout the District's infrastructure. Effects on the Golden Mussel would be monitored to determine whether follow-up applications are needed. All applications would use a properly registered molluscicide that is appropriate for the treatment of Golden Mussels and use in the District's water supply. Applications would occur as soon as possible, consistent with label instructions and recommended application parameters, to mitigate and prevent further damage to the District's infrastructure, limit the spread of Golden Mussels, and minimize threats to property, essential public services, and the environment. Upon completion of the application(s), existing infrastructure or equipment damaged by Golden Mussels may be replaced. See attached expanded description.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Golden Mussels, and invasive species recognized as a threat to water conveyance systems, represents a clear and imminent threat to existing public infrastructure, essential services, and the environment. The Project is needed to help mitigate damage, prevent further spread, and protect property, essential services, and the environment. Accordingly, the Project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines sections 15269 and 15359.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Samuel Blue Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 854-5573

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: S. Blue Date: 3/11/26 Title: Resource Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

## **Expanded Description for AEWSO NOE for Golden Mussel Treatment**

The Emergency Initial Golden Mussel Treatment project (“Project”) involves approval and implementation of a proposed agreement for emergency treatment of Golden Mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*), an invasive species recently discovered in the District’s water infrastructure. The State of California has recognized that Golden Mussel “poses a significant immediate threat to natural ecosystems, water conveyance systems, infrastructure, agriculture, economy, and water quality,” and, to combat that threat, the State has developed a *Golden Mussel Response Framework*. Among other things, the Framework adopts as a statewide goal “suppress[ing] mussel populations within infested waters to minimize impacts to the environment, economy, infrastructure, and human health.” The *Framework* further emphasizes the need for “immediate...response action by California agencies” to contain Golden Mussel and stop its spread.

The District proposes to enter and implement a contract for application of a molluscicide to District’s water infrastructure. The first application is intended to eradicate established adult and juvenile mussels throughout the District’s infrastructure. Effects on Golden Mussel would be monitored to determine whether follow-up applications are needed. All applications would use a properly registered molluscicide that is appropriate for the treatment of Golden Mussel and use in the District’s water supply. Applications would occur as soon as possible, consistent with label instructions and recommended application parameters, to mitigate and prevent further damage to the District’s infrastructure, limit the spread of Golden Mussel, and minimize the threats to property, essential public services, and the environment. Upon completion of the application(s), infrastructure or equipment damaged by Golden Mussel may be replaced.

Golden Mussel represents a clear and imminent threat to public infrastructure, essential services, and the environment. The Project is needed to help mitigate damage, prevent further spread, and protect property, essential services, and the environment. Accordingly, it is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Public Resources Code sections 21080 and 21060.3, as well as CEQA Guidelines sections 15269 and 15359. Even if the Project were not statutorily exempt, it would qualify as categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15300.2, 15301, 15302, 15304, 15307, and 15308.