

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>To:</b>	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation Attn: State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, California 95814	<b>From:</b>	Department of Water Resources Water Management P.O BOX 942836 Sacramento, California 94236-0001
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<b>Project Title</b>	Use of Kern County Water Agency's State Water Project (SWP) Table A Water Outside of its Service Area under Article 56(f) and for Conveyance of Non-Project Water Under Article 55 (SWP #26004)
<b>Location- Specific</b>	From Banks Pumping Plant and/or O'Neill Forebay to Kern County Water Agency 's turnout(s) in Reaches 9 through 16A of the California Aqueduct and Reach 31A of the California Aqueduct's Coastal Branch
<b>Location- County</b>	Kern and Tulare Counties
<b>Description of Activity</b>	Due to Cross Valley Canal capacity limitations and to provide irrigation flexibility, Kern-Tulare Water District (KTWD) and Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) will conduct a bona fide water exchange through two water conveyances: (1) conveyance of up to 53,300 acre-feet of KCWA's 2026 and/or 2027 SWP Table A water through KCWA's existing turnout(s) to KTWD, including for use outside of KCWA's service area, and (2) conveyance of a like amount of KTWD's 2026 Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies to KCWA where the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will make KTWD's CVP water available to DWR at Banks Pumping Plant and/or O'Neill Forebay for DWR to deliver to KCWA. DWR will enter into an agreement with KCWA to authorize the use of KCWA's SWP Table A Water outside of KCWA's service area under Article 56(f) of KCWA's Water Supply Contract and the conveyance of CVP water to KCWA pursuant to Article 55 of KCWA's Water Supply Contract. This bona fide exchange is subject to the State Water Resources Control Board approval of DWR's and Reclamation's Petition for Temporary Change in the Place of Use.
<b>Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying out Activity</b>	KCWA (Local agency), DWR (State agency), Reclamation (Federal agency)
<b>Exempt Status</b>	<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 facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729
<b>Reasons why activity is exempt</b>	a. California Water Code, § 1729, exempts temporary changes in place of use from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. (see also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15282, subd. (u)).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>b. State Water Project long-term water supply contract includes provisions for conveyance of non-project water to SWP contractors.</li><li>c. The project is a water management operation using only existing facilities.</li><li>d. The project will not support new development or a change in land use.</li><li>e. The project does not establish a new permanent source of water supply.</li></ul>
<b>DWR Contact Person</b>	Patrick Luzuriaga Telephone: 916-820-7778

<p>Signature:</p> <p><i>Molly White</i></p> <hr/> <p>Molly White Assistant Division Manager, Water Management Division of Operations and Maintenance State Water Project</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>4/6/2026</p> <hr/>
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