



California Environmental Quality Act: Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
Electronic Filing

From: Project Applicant / Lead Agency
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

Contact Person: Brenda Marines
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Project Name: Webb Tract Rice Conversion Project Lease Agreement

Project Location - Specific: The project is located on Webb Tract, an island located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Specifically, Contra Costa County Assessor Parcel Numbers: 026-070-001-8, 026-080-006-5, 026-080-009-9, 026-080-007-3, 026-080-008-1, 026-080-004-0, 026-008-005-7. See attached map.

Project Location - City: N/A (Unincorporated)

Project Location - County: Contra Costa County

Description of Project:

The project consists of a new agricultural lease agreement with Martini Companies, LLC for rice farming and related uses on a portion of Metropolitan’s fee owned Webb Tract property (approximately 2,159 gross acres). The lease agreement is for six years with one optional three-year extension for a maximum term of nine years. In addition to rice farming activities, the lease agreement will include land maintenance and vegetation management within the leased parcels, and shall have rights to engage in recreational hunting within the unfarmed, leased land. The Rice Conversion Project is supported by a grant awarded to Metropolitan by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy in June 2023.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

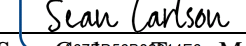
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Exempt Status: (check as applicable)

- Ministerial (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines
- Declared Emergency (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines
- Categorical Exemption, Class 1, State CEQA Guidelines §15301; Class 4, State CEQA Guidelines §15304
- Statutory Exemption (Public Resources Code §21080.56);
- Other, State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because the action consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographic features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. In addition, the proposed action consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for agricultural purposes.

Signature: 
Sean Carlson, Team Manager
Environmental Planning
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Date: April 15, 2026