

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Kern

1115 Truxton Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301-4339

From: (Public Agency): _____
Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK)
6500 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551

(Address)

Project Title: Common Landowner Transfer SWP Supplies - AVEK/KCWA 2026 1,472 AF

Project Applicant: Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK)

Project Location - Specific:

Service area boundaries: Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) & AVEK.

Project Location - City: Various Project Location - County: Kern, Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

To improve water supply & reliability for its customer, Tejon Ranch Co., AVEK Water Agency (AVEK) will transfer up to 1,472 Acre-Ft of SWP supply to Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) in 2026. Water will be delivered through KCWA's SWP turnouts along the California Aqueduct. Tejon Ranch owns land in both KCWA & AVEK service areas.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Ca. Dept. of Water Resources, AVEK, & KCWA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: AVEK & KCWA

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: Class 1, Sec. 15301: Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This program is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class 1 categorical exemption (14 C.C.R. § 15301) because it involves the use of existing publicly owned water facilities within the boundaries of AVEK & KCWA. Water storage or exchange involves imported water delivered through the SWP CA Aqueduct that would otherwise be consumed or stored by AVEK.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Tom Barnes Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-943-3201

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: Tom Barnes Date: 5/29/2026 Title: Imported Water Supply 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: _____