

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation Attn: State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, California 95814	From:	Department of Water Resources Water Management P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, California 94236-0001
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Project Title	2026 Common Landowner Transfer between Empire West Side Irrigation District and Kern County Water Agency on behalf of Sandridge Partners (SWP #26010)
Location- Specific	From the Delta to Kern County Water Agency's (KCWA's) turnout(s) in Reaches 9 through 12E of the California Aqueduct and/or Reach 31A of the California Aqueduct's Coastal Branch of State Water Project (SWP).
Location- County	Kern County
Description of Activity	SWP Agreement #26010 provides for a non-permanent transfer of up to 1,954 acre-feet of Empire West Side Irrigation District's (Empire's) approved 2026 SWP Table A water to KCWA. The request was made on behalf of landowner Sandridge Partners, which farms in both Empire's and KCWA's service areas. The transfer of water shall be completed by December 31, 2026 for use in KCWA's service area.
Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying out Activity	Empire (local agency), KCWA (local agency), DWR (state agency)
Exempt Status	☐ Ministerial ☐ Declared Emergency ☐ Emergency Project ☒ Categorical Exemption: Class 1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities ☐ Statutory Exemption: California Water Code Section 1729
Reasons why activity is exempt	a. SWP long-term water supply contracts include provisions for delivery within SWP place of use, including transfers between SWP contractors. b. No construction is required to implement the proposed delivery. c. The facilities are existing facilities that have not been expanded or modified to implement the proposed delivery. d. There will be no change in land use.
DWR Contact Person	Patrick Luzuriaga Telephone: 916-820-7778

Signature: <u>Jacob McGuirk</u> (Acting for Molly White) Molly White Assistant Division Manager, Water Management Division of Operations and Maintenance State Water Project	Date: <u>6/12/2026</u>
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