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**Notice of Exemption**

**TO:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**FROM:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170
Sacramento, CA 95821
Jennifer Calles, (916) 837-3683
Jennifer.Calles@cvflood.ca.gov

**Project Title:** Permit No. 20095 – Chowchilla Subbasin Recharge Project 2

**Project Applicant/Lead Agency:** Madera County; Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water and Natural Resources; 200 West 4th Street, Suite 3100, Madera, CA 93637; 559-598-0362; stephanie.anagnoson@maderacounty.com

**Project Location**: The project is located approximately 0.5 miles north of Avenue 14 crossing of the Chowchilla Canal Bypass, at 36.960101°N 120.356123°W, Chowchilla Canal Bypass, Lower San Joaquin Levee District, Madera County.

**Project Description**: To construct a flow diversion through the Chowchilla Eastside Bypass levee for groundwater recharge. The project will include an excavated channel from the Bypass to near the waterside levee toe, into a fish screen intake system, through a buried 36-inch diameter concrete culvert, approximately 100-feet-long, to a gate control box with slide gate for positive closure, through the levee to the landside of the levee to a concrete pump box where the water is pumped into a distribution pipeline.

**Public Agency Approving Project**: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

**Exempt Status**:

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

☒ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

☐ Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Sec. 15061(b)(3))

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**
A state of emergency related to severe drought conditions was proclaimed by Governor Newsom on March 28, 2022 through Executive Order N-7-22. The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15269(c), because the project consists of specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, including actions to address drought-related groundwater conditions through groundwater recharge. In addition, the Department of Water Resources concurred that the project satisfies the eligibility requirements of Paragraph 13 of Executive Order N-7-22, which suspends CEQA requirements for eligible recharge projects.

Chris Lief 7/31/2026

Signature Chris Lief, Executive Officer Date

☒ Signed by Public Agency ☐ Signed by Responsible Agency

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