Public Notice

Notice of Exemption

To: Santa Clara County
Clerk-Recorder's Office
110 West Tasman Dr, 1st Floor
San Jose, CA 95134

Kern County Clerk's Office
1115 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District
(Valley Water)
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686
Telephone (408) 265-2600

Project Title: 2026 Water Transfer between Santa Clara Valley Water District and Kern County Water Agency Member Units Lost Hills Water District and Berrenda Mesa Water District, and Westside Mutual Water Company

Project Location - Specific: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is located in Santa Clara County. Lost Hills Water District (Lost Hills), Berrenda Mesa Water District (Berrenda Mesa), and Westside Mutual Water Company (Westside) are located in Kern County.

Project Location - County: Santa Clara and Kern Counties

Project Purpose and Project Description: Valley Water will request that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) transfer up to 8,000 acre feet of Valley Water's surplus 2026 State Water Project (SWP) Table A water to the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). DWR will deliver the water to KCWA via the SWP Banks Pumping Plant on Reach 1 of the California Aqueduct. KCWA will then deliver the water to Lost Hills, Berrenda Mesa, and Westside for use on existing agricultural lands in Kern County.

The water will be transferred using existing water diversion, conveyance, and storage facilities without exceeding their capacities. The project will not require the construction of new facilities or alteration of existing facilities. The project will not alter Valley Water's or KCWA's existing annual SWP water allocations.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Valley Water

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Valley Water

Exempt Status: (*check one*)

- ☐ Ministerial [§21080(b)(1); 15268]
- ☐ Declared Emergency [§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)]
- ☐ Emergency Project [§21080(b)(c); 15269(b)(c)]
- ☒ Categorical Exemptions [§15301, Existing Facilities]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project does not involve new construction or alteration of existing facilities. The water transfer will be conducted via existing water diversion, conveyance, and storage facilities with negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 that would disqualify the project from being categorically exempt exist.

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Kelly White, Environmental Planner
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (408) 630-2840

Signature: Kelly C White Date: August 26, 2026

Kelly White
Associate Environmental Planner
Utility Planning and FAHCE Support Unit

cc: CEQA Administrative Record