

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

From: (Public Agency)
Semitropic Water Storage District
1101 Central Ave., Wasco CA 93280-0877

☒ County Clerk
County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: 2026 Emergency Golden Mussels Treatment Program (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located within the boundaries of the Semitropic Water Storage District ("District") located within an unincorporated area of Kern County, California, and more, specifically, the District's water conveyance system facilities including canals, pipelines, pumping plants, and related facilities, affected by Golden Mussels.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: District staff recently discovered the presence of Golden Mussels in District water conveyance system facilities. The mussels pose a clear and imminent danger to the District water conveyance system, including the District's thereof to provide essential public water service to its landowners and water users. In response to such emergency conditions, the District has adopted Resolution No. ST 26-03, making emergency findings pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22050 and authorizing emergency contracting for the Project without the need for competitive public bidding, and, in accordance therewith, the District will contract with one or more contractors for application of registered liquid copper solutions to District water supplies in its water system conveyance facilities for the purpose of eradicating, minimizing, and preventing future establishment of Golden Mussels in such facilities. Applications would occur as soon as possible, consistent with label instructions and recommended application parameters, to eliminate, mitigate and/or prevent further damage to the District's water conveyance system, limit the spread of Golden Mussels, and minimize threats to property, essential public services, and the environment. Upon completion of the application(s), existing District water conveyance system facilities damaged by Golden Mussels, if any, may be replaced.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lead Agency: Semitropic Water Storage District.

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial.
- ☐ Declared Emergency.
- ☒ **Emergency Project.** Pub. Res. Code, § 21080(b)(2)(4); CEQA Guidelines, § 15269(b)(c)
- ☐ Categorical Exemption.
- ☐ Statutory Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: Semitropic Water Storage District (District) has found and determined that the Project is statutorily exempt pursuant to CEQA for the following reasons:

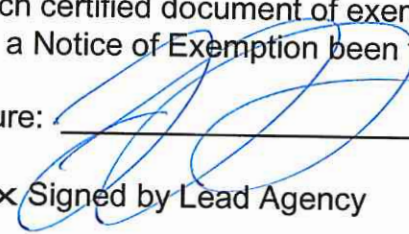
Golden Mussels, an invasive species, are a threat and pose a clear and imminent danger the District's water conveyance system facilities, provision of essential public services to its landowners and water users, and the environment. The Project is necessary to repair public water service facilities, maintain public water service, and mitigate and prevent emergency conditions posed by Golden Mussels. Therefore, the Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(2)(4) and CEQA Guidelines section 15269(b)(c).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jason Gianquinto, General Manager
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 758-5113

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:  Date: 9-9-2026 Title: General Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

☐ Signed by Applicant