State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
E202610000283
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(if applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT		**09/15/2026**

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
FRESNO COUNTY	**E202610000283**

PROJECT TITLE

ARROYO PASAJERO AND ZAPATO CHINO CREEK RECHARGE PILOT PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL		PHONE NUMBER
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT			**(559) 241-6240**
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	**CITY**	**STATE**	**ZIP CODE**
P.O. BOX 5199	**FRESNO**	**CA**	**93755**

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☒ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,227.50	$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$3,043.75	$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,437.25	$	0.00

☐ Exempt from fee

- ☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850.00	$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee	$50.00	$	50.00
☒ Other **CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION**		$	0.00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☒ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ **50.00**

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	**Pricilla Gonzalez Deputy Clerk**

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT COPY - CDFW/ASB COPY - LEAD AGENCY COPY - COUNTY CLERK DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01012026)

County of Fresno
Clerk's Office
James A. Kus

Elections Department
(559) 600-8683

Clerk Services Department
(559) 600-2575

Finalization 2026016728
9/15/2026 12:04 PM
CCR572442 pgonzales

E20260000283

Description	Fee
EIR Administrative Fee	
Time Recorded: 12:04 PM	
Recording Fee:	$50.00
Total Amount Due	$50.00
Total Paid	
Credit Card #367408568	$50.00
Amount Due	$0.00

THANK YOU
PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE

E202610000283

FILED

SEP 15 2026 TIME 12:05 pm

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK

BY _____ DEPUTY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

☐ County Clerk/County Recorder
County of Fresno
P.O. Box 766
Fresno, CA 93712

From: ☐ Westlands Water District
PO Box 5199
Fresno, CA 93755

Project Title: Arroyo Pasajero and Zapato Chino Creek Recharge Pilot Project

Project Applicant: Westlands Water District

Project Location – Specific: The project is in Fresno County, along Arroyo Pasajero Creek from the Coalinga Canal to Westlands Water District (WWD) property near the City of Huron, and along Zapato Chino Creek downstream from Jayne Avenue (west of Interstate 5).

Project Location – City: N/A **Project Location – County:** Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
WWD proposes to conduct a short-term groundwater recharge pilot involving controlled releases of surface water from existing district infrastructure into the beds of Arroyo Pasajero Creek and Zapato Chino Creek. The pilot will evaluate infiltration capacity, wetted reach, and recharge performance using existing turnouts and existing private or WWD access points. No grading, excavation, bank alteration, structure installation, or new permanent facilities are involved. Flows are from existing WWD water supplies already used for irrigation and recharge. The purpose of the pilot is to improve groundwater sustainability and inform future recharge planning.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: WWD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: WWD

E202610000283

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));
- **X** Categorical Exemptions. §15301(Existing Facilities), §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), including §15304(h) and §15304(i), §15306 (Information Collection).

- ☐ Statutory Exemptions.

Reasons why project is exempt:
This Project is found categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15301, as the operation of the existing facility involves negligible change of existing or former use. The pilot uses only existing water-delivery infrastructure, existing access points, and an existing natural creek channel. Work is fully contained within disturbed areas that routinely convey stormwater.

The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15304 as the Project consists of minor, temporary alterations to land and water that do not involve any ground disturbance, grading, or construction of new facilities. No healthy or mature vegetation will be removed, and the pilot will not alter the bed or banks of the creeks. All activities are reversible, short in duration, and will not create permanent environmental effects.

The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under §15306 as the Project consists of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to environmental resources. The pilot is intended to collect operational, hydrologic, and environmental performance data to inform future groundwater recharge planning.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Stephen Farmer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 241-6240

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: 2026.09.14 Title: Chief Administrative Officer

X Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108(b), 21152(b), Public Resources Code.