



**RECORDING REQUESTED
WHEN RECORDING MAIL TO:**

County of Sacramento
Planning and Environmental Review
827 7th Street, Room 225
Sacramento, CA 95814
CONTACT PERSON: Julie Newton
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ENDORSED
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SEP 24 2026

FLORENCE EVANS, CLERK/RECORDER
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title:

Freeport Regional Water Project - Golden Mussels

Control Number:

PLER2026-00041

Project Location:

Located east of the Sacramento River and west of Interstate-5 on the parcel addressed 7750 Freeport Boulevard, and along 17 miles of pipeline that runs east along Cosumnes Boulevard and Gerber Road in Sacramento County.

APN:

031-0200-046-0000 and within public right-of-way

Description of Project:

Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) proposes the authorization of copper compounds and other chemicals necessary at the intake of the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP) to treat and control golden mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*), a newly identified threat to SCWA FRWP facilities following discovery within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in 2024. Dense colonization (biofouling) of golden mussels can lead to blocked municipal and industrial water intakes and can result in diminished water quality. SCWA further proposes to amend the 2006 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Agreement to include language that allows the use and storage of sodium hypochlorite and chemicals needed to combat golden mussels or other invasive species at the intake facilities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

Sacramento County Water Agency – cega@saccounty.gov

Person or Agency Carrying out Project:

Scott Hutcheson
Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA)
827 7th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 875-2216
hutchesons@saccounty.gov

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption (PRC Section 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15300-15333):

- CEQA Guidelines Section 15359 – Emergency

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Class 59 consists of emergency projects, where a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving clear and imminent danger, demands immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services. The authorization, and modification of the O&M Agreement, for the use

and storage of copper compounds and other chemicals at FRWP facilities follows discovery of golden mussels within the project site. Golden mussels, an invasive species recognized as a threat to water conveyance systems, represents a clear and imminent threat to existing public infrastructure, essential services, and the environment. Golden mussel biofouling can block water intakes and degrade water quality. The project is needed to help mitigate damage, prevent further spread, and protect property, essential services, and the environment and is therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

Section 15300.2-Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the Project indicates that it will not violate any of the exceptions, as described in the following section.

1. *For Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11, will the project have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies?*

The project exemption is not one of the above classes and this exception does not apply.

2. *Will cumulative impacts be considerable because successive projects of the same type will occur at the same place over time?*

The authorization of copper compounds and other chemicals to treat golden mussels would be completed in accordance with all state and local regulations and will not result in potentially significant impacts.

3. *Is there a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances?*

There are no known unusual circumstances that will have a significant effect on the environment.

4. *Will the project result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a scenic highway?*

River Road / Highway 160 (from the Sacramento City Limits at the northern edge of Freeport to the southern tip of the Delta at Antioch Bridge) is a designated State Scenic Highway. The project is not located within the vicinity of this scenic highway.

5. *Is the project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code?*

The project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

6. *Will the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource?*

The project site does not contain any historical resources.

Julie Newton

9/22/26

Julie Newton
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR OF
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Copy To:

☒ **County Clerk of Sacramento**
County Clerk

3636 American River Drive, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95864

☒ **Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation**
State Clearinghouse

1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814