

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Sacramento

From: (Public Agency): Department of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812

(Address)

Project Title: FIFRA Section 18 Specific Emergency Exemption: Use of Clethodim in Rice to Control Weedy Red Rice

Project Applicant: California Rice Commission

Project Location - Specific:

Rice fields in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, San Joaquin, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Count

Project Location - City: Cities in impacted counties Project Location - County: Counties listed above

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This specific exemption request is necessary to reduce losses by the California rice industry due to a continued infestation of weedy red rice in cultivated rice fields. Multiple factors are contributing to the emergency situation, including the absence of commercially viable control methods and the pest's taxonomic similarity to the main crop, which hinders effective segregation and eradication of weedy red rice. Currently, there are no effective herbicides available that allow spot treatments to safely kill weedy rice. The accepted cultural practices available to growers such as fallowing and roguing are also cost prohibitive, making them unsuitable for growers to rely upon long term without incurring further economic hardship.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Pesticide Regulation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California rice growers in impacted counties

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));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(16)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Public Resources Code 21080(b)(16) designates U.S. EPA authorized Section 18 decisions as exempt from CEQA. On September 18, 2026, U.S. EPA authorized the specific exemption for Select Max Herbicide with Inside Technology on rice to control weedy red rice under the authority of FIFRA Section 18. On September 23, 2026 DPR issued this specific exemption.

Lead Agency Tulio Macedo Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-324-3527

Contact Person: _____

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: Tulio Macedo Date: 9/23/26 Title: Branch Chief

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____