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: _____

_____

_____

From: (Public Agency): Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin Field Division

4201 Sabodan Street, Bakersfield, CA 93313

(Address)

Project Title: Devil's Den Pipeline Visual Inspection

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin Field Division

Project Location – Specific:
MP 16.70: 35°42'37.23"N, 120° 2'36.28"W
MP 16.60: 35°42'39.06"N, 120° 2'30.40"W
Berrenda Mesa Canal: 35°42'34.8"N 120°02'15.0"W

Project Location – City: Lost Hills Project Location – County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Department of Water Resources (DWR) plans to inspect the Devil's Den pipeline (DEPL). To safely inspect the line, the pipe will first be fully drained. To assist with dewatering, DWR will use 4-inch lay flat PVC to transfer water from the DEPL to the Berrenda Mesa canal.

Lay flat pipe will connect to a portable diesel pump at vault 16.70. DWR workers will run the lay flat pipe uphill towards vault 16.60, approximately 535-feet away, and then downhill towards Kecks Rd, approximately 1,440-feet away. From there, the pipe will turn and run south along Kecks Rd for 620-feet and end at Berrenda Mesa canal. Once the lay flat pipe is in place, DWR staff will start dewatering.

After DEPL is completely drained, DWR staff will roll up the pipe either by hand or with assistance of a small off-road vehicle. Dewatering is anticipated to last one week. Equipment and vehicle staging will take place at vault 16.70. This work is necessary for assessing the condition of the DEPL.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DWR- Operations & Maintenance

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: 15301 (b)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project consists of maintenance activities that support the function of the California Aqueduct and water delivery within the State Water Project.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Elizabeth Maldonado Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-858-5662

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: Elizabeth Maldonado Date: 10/19/26 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

☒ 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: _____