NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

To: Kern County Clerk and Recorder
Kern County
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title: Water Banking and Exchange Agreement between Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Location -- Specific: The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) is located in Santa Clarita, California and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (RRB) and Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) are located in Kern County, California.

Location -- **Counties:** Los Angeles County and Kern County

Description of Activity: In 2026, SCVWA anticipates needing additional recharge capacity for its 2026 SWP supplies. Rosedale anticipates having recharge capacity available in its own groundwater recharge and banking program and anticipates having sufficient capacity to take SCVWA's SWP supplies.

Rosedale and SCVWA desire to enter into a 3:1 exchange program whereby for every 3 acre-feet of State Water Project (SWP) water delivered to Rosedale in-district by SCVWA (delivery in California Aqueduct to Reach 12E), Rosedale shall bank and return 1 acre-foot of water (minus applicable conveyance losses and losses pursuant to terms of the customary Memorandum of Understanding applicable to banking projects in the area) to SCVWA (point of delivery Reach 30). The term of the agreement shall be from October 21, 2026, through December 31, 2036. A maximum of up to 3,300 acre-feet of SCVWA SWP Table A recharge water shall be delivered by December 31, 2026. Rosedale shall return its agreed upon banked water no later than December 31, 2036.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency), Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Kern County Water Agency.

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- X **Categorical Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities
- X **Statutory Exemption.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why activity is exempt:

The project, aka the whole of the action, qualifies for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities as SCVWA finds that approval of the proposed water exchange has no possibility for significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action consists of a two-part water transfer that will use existing facilities and would not require any construction or grading
2. The proposed action does not constitute a new permanent source of water supply and will not result in any growth inducing or cumulative environmental impacts.

The water exchange agreement is also exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense exemption," which provides that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Here, SCVWA finds the water exchange agreement is exempt from CEQA as "it will involve no change in the type of use or expansion of use of either Semitropic or SCV Water's existing infrastructure facilities. Rather, the water exchange will involve the exercise of Semitropic and SCV Water's existing right to SWP water, and the transfer of said water between Semitropic and SCV Water will consist merely of the continued operation of Semitropic and SCV Water's existing facilities, and so "will have no significant effect on the environment."

None of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the action.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rick Vasilopulos **Telephone**: (661) 705-7912

Signature: _____ **Title**: Senior Water Resources Planner

Date: November 3, 2026

☑ Signed by Lead Agency
☑ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

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