

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: NA

Case No.: NA

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: Assignment of the State Water Project's Water Supply Contract to the Central Coast Water Authority

Project Description: This Resolution authorize Public Works Director or his designee to execute an agreement assigning the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's (District) State Water Project Contract to the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA)

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources and the Central Coast Water Authority

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory Exemption
- ☒ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

CEQA Article 5, Section 15061(b)(3) – common sense exemption.

CEQA Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15320 – changes in organization of local agencies.

CEQA Article 20, Definitions, Section 15378(b)(5) – organizational or administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment

Reasons to support exemption findings: The project involves assigning the existing State Water Project's Water Supply Contract from the District to the CCWA with no changes to the Contract or to water supply, delivery or facilities. Because the project only involves a change in organization, by substituting the contracting party from the District to CCWA, with no corresponding physical environmental effects, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Furthermore, CCWA was formed in 1991 for the purpose of planning, designing, financing, constructing and operating the facilities needed to deliver water from the State Water Project. Since 1991 CCWA has been actively involved in the State Water Project (SWP) and entered into a Transfer of Financial Responsibility Agreement with the District, whereby CCWA agreed to pay the District the amounts required to be paid by the District to State of California pursuant to the SWP Contract with respect to the rights held by CCWA under or in connection with the SWP Contract and CCWA agreed to be bound by all the terms and conditions of the SWP Contract.

State Water Project delivery, distribution and facilities will remain the same, therefore transfer of the Contract between local governmental agencies would not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised. The character of the supply, the method of delivery, the place of use and the population of use will remain the same. Accordingly, assignment will not have significant impact on the environment, either directly or indirectly and the assignment to CCWA is similar to changes in organization identified in Section 15320.

Transfer of the Contract is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment; therefore this is not a project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matt Young Phone #: 805-568-3546

Department/Division Representative:  Date: 9/25/2025
Seth Shank

Date: September 25, 2025

Date of final action on project: October 7, 2025

NOTE: A copy of this document must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35-day statute of limitations on legal challenges.