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Exempt per Gov't Code 6103

RETURN TO: Jo Ann Corey
Irvine Ranch Water District
P.O. Box 57000
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92619-7000
949-453-5300

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
(State Guidelines 15062)

County Clerk's Filing Stamp

FILED

MAR 21 2017

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

DEPUTY

TO: Orange County Clerk-Recorder
12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 101
Santa Ana, CA 92701

FROM: Irvine Ranch Water District (Applicant & Lead Agency)
P.O. Box 57000
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92619-7000
(949) 453-5300

Project Name: Long-Term Exchange Program Between Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD)

Project Location: IRWD is located in Orange County in southern California. DRWD is a State Water Project (SWP) contractor located in southern Kings County in San Joaquin Valley. The Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project and Stockdale Integrated Banking Project are located in Kern County. The SWP includes facilities located throughout the State of California.

County: Orange, Kern and Kings

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HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

DEPUTY

BY:

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is a landowner in Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD). IRWD and DRWD seek to increase flexibility and improve water management through a Long-Term Exchange Program (LTEP). This LTEP would allow IRWD to recover and deliver up to 40,000 acre-feet (AF) of non-SWP water that is stored in IRWD's existing water banks (Stockdale Integrated Banking Project or Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project), located in Kern County, to DRWD for use by its landowners, in exchange for an equal amount of SWP water provided by DRWD.

The return deliveries can be made to either IRWD's water banks in Kern County, or to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD), IRWD's SWP contractor, located in Southern California, for an eventual delivery to IRWD. Deliveries to IRWD's Water Banks can be made through either underground transfers from the Kern Water Bank or on the surface through direct recharge. The program also allows DRWD to pre-deliver SWP water to IRWD for later return of IRWD's non-SWP water to

30-2017-0257

DRWD.

There is no construction, land use change or modification to existing facilities; no new lands will be brought into production as a result of the exchange program.

Name of Public Agency Approving and Carrying out this Project:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), Duddle Ridge Water District, Metropolitan Water District, California Department of Water Resources, and Kern County Water Agency

POSTED

MAR 21 2017

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER
BY: NA DEPUTY

Contact Person: Paul Weghorst, Executive Director of Water Policy

Area Code 949

Phone 453-5300

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec 21080(b)(1); (State Guidelines Sec. §15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); State Guidelines Sec. §15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec 21080(b)(4); (State Guidelines Sec. §15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15301(b))
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15302)
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15303)
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15306)
- Statutory Exemption State code number (State Guidelines §15282)

FILED

MAR 21 2017

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER
BY: NA DEPUTY

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA Guideline Section 15301(b) provides that a lead agency may determine an activity to be exempt from CEQA in that it utilizes only existing facilities. This program is consistent with the Coordinated Operating and Exchange Agreement with MWD and Municipal Water District of Orange County. This program is also consistent with DRWD's Negative Declaration (SCH#201621110) for DRWD's 2015 Agricultural Water Management Plan that addressed long-term banking and exchange programs including IRWD's Strand Ranch and Stockdale Integrated Banking Projects.

This Notice of Exemption has been prepared to provide interested parties a better understanding of the absence of impacts related to the proposed exchange. IRWD has determined that the exchange has been adequately covered under CEQA documentation prepared for the IRWD-Jackson Ranch Water Allocation Project (SCH#2009111097), CEQA documentation for the Strand Ranch Integrated Water Banking Project (SCH#2007041080) and CEQA documentation for the Stockdale Integrated Water Banking Project (SCH#20100091076).

Submission of this form is optional. Local agencies may file this form with the county clerk pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). The filing of the notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project under

Public Resources Code Section 21167(d). Failure to file the notice results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

Jo Ann Corey, Engineering Technician III

Staff Member Responsible for Preparation

Leslie Bonkowski

District Secretary

3/21/17

Date

FILED

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HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: NA DEPUTY

POSTED

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BY: NA DEPUTY