

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
P.O. Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

(Address)

Project Title: Ongoing Operations of the State Water Project (SWP)

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific:

The project location encompasses SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP) water diversion, storage, and conveyance facilities and SWP and CVP service areas. See attached map.

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: various

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
See attached page.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

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: PRC 21169; CEQA Guidelines 15261(a)

Reasons why project is exempt:
See attached page.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Dean Messer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-376-9700

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: Karl A. Nemech Date: 12-14-18 Title: Director

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: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 14 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment to Notice of Exemption
California Department of Water Resources
Ongoing Operations of the State Water Project

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project:

DWR secured water rights and began operating the SWP in 1967. During the following decades, the SWP has provided water to contracting agencies throughout the SWP service area. DWR operates the SWP in coordination with the CVP, which is operated by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Although DWR and Reclamation have coordinated operations since the SWP came online in 1967, the parties operated on a year-to-year basis until 1986, when DWR and Reclamation entered into the Coordinated Operations Agreement for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (COA), which set forth the parties' respective operational responsibilities.

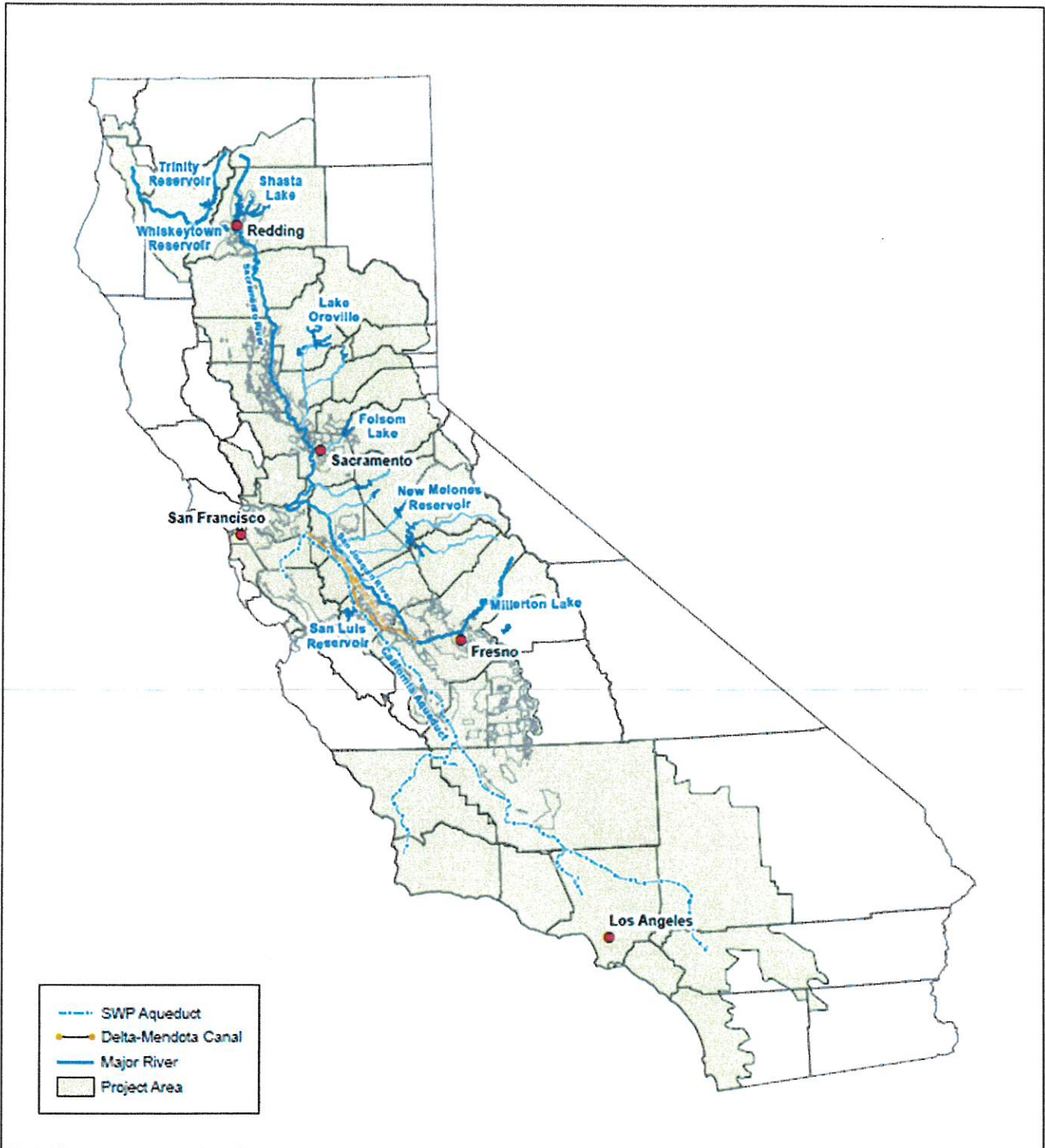
DWR has executed an Addendum to the COA (COA Addendum). Through the COA Addendum, DWR will adjust current SWP operations to modify pumping operations, as well as Project storage withdrawals to meet in-basin uses pursuant to revised calculations based on water year types.

Reasons why project is exempt:

Projects that were approved prior to the enactment of CEQA, November 23, 1970, are exempt. In this case, the SWP was constructed in relevant part and operational prior to November 23, 1970. At the time that CEQA was enacted, the operational scope of SWP activities was broad, providing DWR a wide range of discretion to determine how to deliver water to the SWP service area, including how to operate pumps, manage carryover storage, and coordinate with Reclamation's CVP operations.

DWR will continue to operate the SWP to deliver water within its service area following execution of the COA amendment. The amendment will shift responsibilities for meeting obligations between the CVP and SWP, but these adjustments are within the original scope of the project. In other words, the COA amendment is a normal, intrinsic part of ongoing operations of the SWP.

Furthermore, neither exception to the exemption for ongoing projects applies here (see CEQA Guidelines 15261(a)(1) and (2)). SWP operations have been ongoing for several decades, and a great amount of money has been spent to carry out these operations. Furthermore, execution of the COA amendment would not modify SWP operations in such a manner that it might result in a new significant effect on the environment.



Project Location



Date/Time: 12/11/2018 1:26 PM
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: North American 1983