

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Reclamation District 756
311 East Main Street, Suite 504
Stockton, CA 95202

(Public Agency and Address)

County Clerk, County of: San Joaquin County

Project Title: Temporary Water Transfer for License # 1405 (Application # 2948)

Project Location - Specific: Bouldin Island; Sacramento River-San Joaquin River Delta

Project Location - City: N/A **Project Location - County:** San Joaquin County

Description of Project: Reclamation District 756 (Bouldin Island) has requested that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approve a temporary urgency change to License 1405 (A002948) to allow the transfer of water from Bouldin Island in the Sacramento River-San Joaquin River Delta to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) from May 1, 2009 to November 1, 2009. If the SWRCB approves the temporary change, the following will occur on Bouldin Island in 2009: water will not be diverted; crops will not be grown; the fields will be disced to control weeds; and water levels in the irrigation canals will be maintained at normal levels to preserve perennial aquatic and riparian habitat. The water not applied to Bouldin Island will be available in the Delta for transfer to MWD via the State Water Project (SWP) Banks Pumping Plant and Central Valley Project (CVP) Tracy Pumping Plant. MWD is separately seeking the approval from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) or United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to convey the water through the SWP or CVP facilities. If DWR or USBR approve the conveyance of water, the water will be conveyed on the same schedule that the water would have been consumptively used in the absence of the transfer, subject to SWP or CVP pumping capacity and regulatory requirements.

Purpose: To facilitate the conservation of water and to help reduce the critical water supply shortfall affecting the MWD service area.

Beneficiaries: Customers within MWD's service area for irrigation, domestic consumption, power generation, municipal use and industrial use.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Reclamation District 756

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: Class 1 (Sec. 15301), Class 4 (Sec. 15304), General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3))
 Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: If the temporary water transfer to MWD is approved, there will be no substantial change in the current conditions on Bouldin Island. The only physical change to the land on Bouldin Island will be occasional discing to control weeds; crops have not yet been planted for the 2009 growing season, and will not be planted if the transfer is approved. Normal water levels will be maintained in the drainage canals to ensure that the existing aquatic and riparian habitat will be not affected. The water proposed for transfer will remain in the Delta and, if approved by DWR or USBR, will be conveyed when there is available capacity and in accordance with all existing regulatory requirements. Therefore, there is no possibility that the project will have an effect on the environment. The project qualifies as an existing facility under the Class 1 exemption, qualifies as a Class 4 minor private alteration in the condition of land which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes, is not barred by the Sec. 15300.2 exceptions, and it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, in accordance with Executive Order S-06-08 declaring a statewide drought, this project qualifies as an action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Al Hoslett, District Secretary

Area Code/
Telephone/Extension: (209) 943-5551

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: _____ Date: _____ Title: District Secretary
Al Warren Hoslett

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: N/A

Signed by Applicant