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Steve J. Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: aambriz



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Lead Agency:

Oakdale Irrigation District
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Oakdale, CA 95361

Project Applicant and Lead Agency Contact Person:

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County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

County Clerk
County of Merced
2222 M. Street, Main Floor
Merced, CA 95340

County Clerk
County of San Joaquin
44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 260
Stockton, CA 95202

County Clerk
County of Tuolumne
#2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

County Clerk
County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607

County Clerk
County of Contra Costa
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 95443

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Title: Agreement to Purchase Water released by the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for diversion and use by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority and the California Department of Water Resources (Project)

Project Location: From the Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam to the San Joaquin River, to the Bay-Delta to the Jones and Banks Pumping Plants, and ultimately to the San Luis Reservoir; located in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Merced Counties.

Project Description:

Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), collectively referred to as "Districts", will release up to 50,000 acre-feet of water at Goodwin Dam (Project) in addition to water releases required to be made by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) at New Melones Reservoir to benefit migratory fish on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. The water proposed to be released will be purchased by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The water OID and SSJID release will be surplus to the irrigation demand of each district. The release will occur at Goodwin Dam during April and May of each year between 2026 and 2030 and will be coordinated to assist and supplement Reclamation's releases in meeting their legal obligations of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the April-May pulse flow objective at Vernalis. The volume of water each year is dependent on the hydrological year type, and is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Above Normal | up to 50,000 acre-feet |
| Below Normal | up to 50,000 acre-feet |
| Dry | up to 50,000 acre-feet |
| Critically Dry | up to 20,000 acre-feet |

The Project agreement may be renewed for an additional 5 years upon written notification by the parties. The delivery volume above would remain the same if renewed.

The Project will be subordinate to the rights of: 1) the Cities of Lathrop, Manteca, Escalon and Tracy pursuant to each city's Water Supply Development Agreement with SSJID; 2) the Chicken Ranch Rancheria Me-Wuk Indians of California under their Emergency Water Supply Agreement with the Districts, and; 3) the landowners outside the boundaries of OID who are enrolled in OID's 10-Year Out-of-District Water Sale Program.

If the end-of-month September storage level in New Melones Reservoir is projected to be below 700,000 acre-feet during any year of the Project term, the parties shall consult with Reclamation on an agreeable release amount for that year.

The Districts, in consultation with Reclamation and the Stanislaus Watershed Team, shall be responsible for determining the schedule of the delivery. The released water will be diverted by the SLDMWA and State Water Project Contractors (SWP) at the Jones and Banks pumping stations at a 1:1 ratio.

Project Purpose:

The Project will provide water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses in areas south of the Delta. The releases will be timed to coincide with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) spring "pulse flow" for the purpose of improving flow on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to benefit migratory fish. Pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Decision 1641 (D-1641), Reclamation is responsible for meeting the April-May flow objective at Vernalis. The NMFS 2019 Biological Opinion (BiOp), as revised in 2024, establishes the Spring "pulse flow" identified in the Stanislaus River Minimum Fish Flow Schedule for the purpose of protecting migratory fish in the lower San Joaquin River and Delta, particularly fall-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead. Released water provided by OID and SSJID will supplement flows in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to improve instream flow conditions for migratory fish during April and May each year of the Project. The released water will be

diverted by the SLDMWA and SWP contractors. This water will help those entities offset allocation reductions they may receive during the Project duration. Additionally, OID and SSJID will be paid for the water released at Goodwin Dam, which will in turn be used for capital improvements and ongoing operations and maintenance of the Districts.

Project Proponents: OID and SSJID

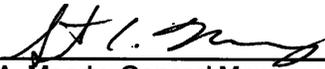
Project Beneficiaries: SLDMWA and DWR

Lead Agency: OID

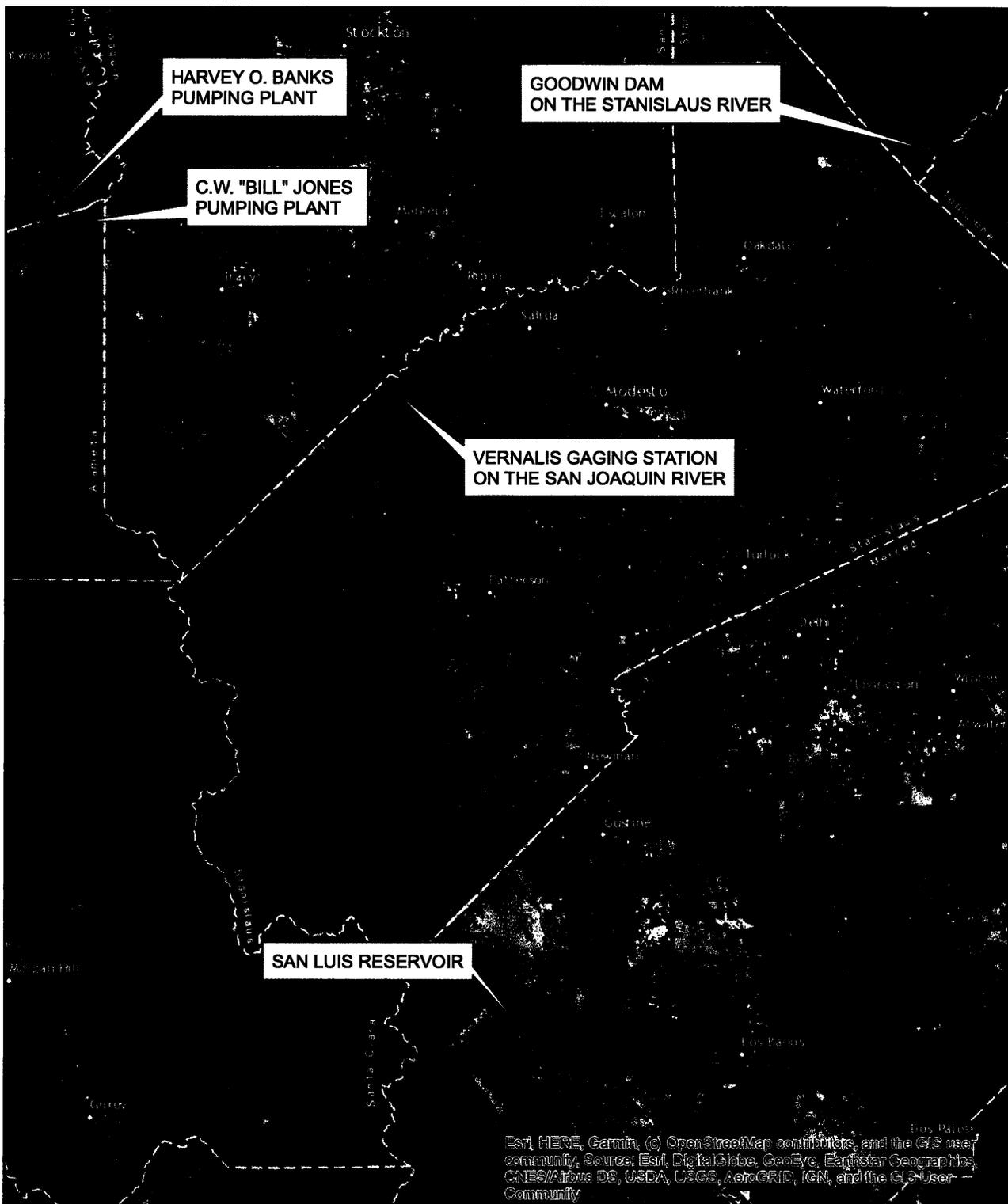
Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Sec. 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities).

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The Project utilizes existing public facilities for the movement of water per the agreement. There will be negligible or no expansion of existing diversion and conveyance facilities as a result of the Project.

Dated: 3/5/26



Scot A. Moody, General Manager
OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT



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DRAWN BY: ECS
 CHECKED BY: ECT
 DATE: 2/26/26
 SHEET: 4 OF 4

**PROJECT SITE MAP
 AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE WATER RELEASED
 BY OID & SSJID FOR DIVERSION AND USE BY
 SLDMWA & DWR**

