



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

(CEQA Guidelines, Appendix E; Pub. Resources Code § 21152; 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15062)

To:	County Clerk County of San Joaquin 44 North San Joaquin Street, Suite 260 Stockton, CA 95202 State Clearinghouse Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation <i>(This Notice is filed with the County Clerk of San Joaquin County and, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21152(b) and (d) as amended by SB 69 (2023), is also filed electronically with the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.)</i>
From (Public Agency):	Woodbridge Irrigation District 18750 North Lower Sacramento Road Woodbridge, CA 95258 (Mailing: P.O. Box 580, Woodbridge, CA 95258)

Project Title:	Adoption of the 2024 Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence for the Woodbridge Irrigation District
Project Applicant:	None. The Woodbridge Irrigation District is the Lead Agency and the agency carrying out the project; there is no separate applicant.
Project Location – Specific:	The project applies to the Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID), located in north-central San Joaquin County, west of the City of Lodi and north of the City of Stockton. The MSR and SOI cover WID's current service area boundary and Sphere of Influence boundary, encompassing approximately 52.0 square miles (33,280 acres). The area includes the unincorporated communities of Woodbridge and Thornton and small portions of the incorporated Cities of Lodi and Stockton.
Project Location – City:	Unincorporated San Joaquin County, including the communities of Woodbridge and Thornton, and portions of the Cities of Lodi and Stockton
Project Location – County:	San Joaquin County, California

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project

The project consists of the preparation and adoption of the 2024 Municipal Service Review (MSR) for the Woodbridge Irrigation District, together with the associated Sphere of Influence (SOI) determination. The MSR is an informational planning and feasibility study prepared

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Steve J. Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: dfilipowski





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pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code §§ 56000 et seq.), including Government Code §§ 56425 and 56430.

The MSR provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of the services WID currently provides, and presents written determinations in the seven categories mandated by Government Code § 56430: (1) growth and population projections; (2) the location and characteristics of disadvantaged unincorporated communities; (3) the present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services; (4) the financial ability of the agency to provide services; (5) the status of and opportunities for shared facilities; (6) accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies; and (7) any other matters related to effective or efficient service delivery.

The MSR and SOI cover WID's current service area boundary and define WID's Sphere of Influence boundary. WID is not proposing any annexation or detachment of territory to its service area, any change of organization or reorganization, or any new or expanded physical facilities as part of this project. The MSR collects and presents baseline technical and administrative information intended to inform future planning and decision-making by WID and the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

The purpose of the project is to satisfy the requirements of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and to support informed, orderly planning for the provision of irrigation and related water services. The beneficiaries of the project are WID, LAFCo, and the public, who benefit from the comprehensive, publicly available information the MSR provides. Any future boundary change, annexation, out-of-boundary service extension, or construction of facilities that may be considered in reliance on the MSR would be a separate, discretionary action subject to its own independent environmental review under CEQA at the time it is proposed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:	Woodbridge Irrigation District (Lead Agency). The Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence determinations are subject to subsequent review and action by the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:	Woodbridge Irrigation District

Exempt Status (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); 15269(b),(c))
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemption. State code number: CEQA Guidelines § 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

See also the discussion below regarding the general/"common sense" exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3) as an additional and independent basis for exemption.

Exempt Status Justification

Primary exemption – Feasibility and Planning Studies (CEQA Guidelines § 15262).



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CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 provides that a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions, which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded a specific future action, does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration, but does require consideration of environmental factors. The project qualifies for this exemption for the following reasons:

1. The 2024 MSR and associated SOI determination constitute an informational planning and feasibility study. The MSR analyzes and documents existing conditions and services and provides baseline information to inform possible future planning decisions by WID and the San Joaquin LAFCo.
2. The project does not approve, adopt, or fund any specific future action. The MSR and SOI cover WID's current service area boundary and Sphere of Influence boundary, and WID is not proposing any annexation or detachment of any portion of its service territory, any change of organization or reorganization, or any new or expanded physical facilities.
3. The MSR and SOI do not have a legally binding effect on later activities. The MSR is an informational document, and the SOI is a planning boundary that does not authorize or commit WID or LAFCo to any specific future action. Any future change of organization, annexation, out-of-boundary service, or facility would require separate, discretionary approval and independent CEQA review.
4. Consideration of environmental factors has occurred. In preparing the MSR, WID reviewed and relied upon environmental and planning information, including General Plans, Environmental Impact Reports, water resources and groundwater data, and related regional and state agency documents, consistent with the requirements of Section 15262.

Additional and independent exemption – General “Common Sense” Exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)).

As an additional and independent basis, the project is exempt under the general exemption of CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which provides that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment, and that where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Adoption of the MSR and SOI is an administrative and informational action that authorizes no construction, ground disturbance, or change in the level or location of services. Because the project will not result in any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Based on the foregoing, the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 and, independently, Section 15061(b)(3), and no further environmental review is required for adoption of the 2024 Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence.

Lead Agency Contact Person:	Keith Bussman, General Manager
Telephone / Email:	(209) 625-8438 / bussmanwid@gmail.com

Signature

This Notice of Exemption is signed and filed by the Lead Agency after approval of the project.



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<i>Kurt Berman</i>	<i>June 24, 2026</i>
Signature (Lead Agency)	Date
<i>Kurt Berman</i>	<i>General Manager</i>
Printed Name and Title	

Filing Information

Date Received for Filing at County Clerk: _____

Filing and posting of this Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk, and the County Clerk's posting of the notice for a period of 30 days, commence a 35-day statute of limitations on legal challenges to the Lead Agency's determination that the project is exempt from CEQA (CEQA Guidelines § 15062(d)). If a Notice of Exemption is not filed, a 180-day statute of limitations applies.

Authority: Pub. Resources Code §§ 21083, 21110. Reference: Pub. Resources Code §§ 21108, 21152, 21152.1.