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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

**FILED**

**FEB 17 2015**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
(State Guidelines 15062)

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Staff

BY:  DEPUTY

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

**POSTED**

**FEB 17 2015**

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

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:  DEPUTY

Project Name: Stockdale West Ranch Emergency Project  
North half of Section 3, Township 30 South, Range 25 East, MDBM  
APN 160-020-12 and 160-020-23 (See Exhibit A) Water from these  
Project Location: wells would be delivered to IRWD's service area, located in Orange  
County, CA  
County: Orange and Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

In 2011, Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) implemented a one-year Pilot Project at its Stockdale West Ranch property in Kern County, California. The Project site is adjacent to IRWD's existing Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project (see Exhibit A). The Pilot Project constructed recharge basins on Stockdale West Ranch for purposes of determining the recharge capabilities of the site and the feasibility and physical limits of a long-term water banking and exchange program at Stockdale West Ranch. As a result of the Pilot Project, IRWD is in the planning stages of implementing a water banking program at Stockdale West Ranch.

On January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency due to the grossly diminished statewide supply of water. Again on April 25, 2014, the Governor proclaimed a continued State of Emergency due to prolonged drought conditions, and identified statewide directives to bolster California's efforts to manage and conserve water efficiently under prolonged drought conditions. In his directives, the Governor highlighted the imperativeness of supporting conservation measures pertaining to groundwater resources. In response to the drought emergency, IRWD is proposing to maximize the recharge of any water that IRWD or its water banking and/or exchange

partners have the rights to may become available in 2015 by utilizing the existing recharge basins at Stockdale West Ranch, in the event there is an opportunity for surplus water. Water would be conveyed to Stockdale West Ranch through an existing siphon connected to the recharge basins on the neighboring Strand Ranch Project site. The Stockdale West Ranch Emergency Project would be used to utilize the recovery of water from storage in the bank for delivery to IRWD's service area in Orange County.

The proposed Emergency Project supports Governor Jerry Brown's conservation initiatives by providing water supply reliability to mitigate shortage conditions that have a high probability of occurrence in the short-term. As the residual impacts of the California drought continue into the future, the proposed Emergency Project will assist in providing a reliable water source to help reduce the effects of the 2014 drought. The proposed Project will help to raise the lowered groundwater levels through additional recharge.

The Emergency Project would operate under the terms and conditions of the existing long-term Water Banking and Exchange Agreement between Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale) and IRWD that established the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project. The following constraints for recharge, storage and recovery of water would be implemented. The Emergency Project would not include recovery wells on Stockdale West Ranch.

Recharge: The Emergency Project would be limited to the recharge of 10,000 acre-feet (AF) of water over a one year period of time, which augments the 17,500 AF of recharge allowed on Strand Ranch by IRWD.

Storage: Water recharged during the Emergency Project would be stored in IRWD's 50,000 AF storage account at the Strand Ranch.

Recovery: Water recharged during the Emergency Project would be recovered from Strand Ranch within the 17,500 AF per year recovery limits of the Strand Ranch Integrated Banking Project.

The Emergency Project would not require construction of any new facilities. The source of water to be recharged at Stockdale West Ranch may include the State Water Project, Central Valley Project, or Kern River high-flow water, all contingent upon necessary approvals.

FILED

FEB 17 2015

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:

DEPUTY

POSTED

FEB 17 2015

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY:

DEPUTY

Name of Public Agency Approving  
and Carrying out this Project:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD)  
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

Contact Person: Jo Ann Corey

Area Code 949

Phone 453-5326

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(c))
- Categorical Exemption (State Guidelines Sec. §15301)
- 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)

Reasons why project is exempt:

IRWD has made the determination that the proposed Stockdale West Ranch Emergency Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by statute (CEQA Guidelines, Article 5 Section 15051; Article 18). Statutory exemptions include emergency projects, such as “[s]pecific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency” (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15269(c)). The proposed Emergency Project would serve to mitigate the current drought emergency by augmenting groundwater supplies that may be used to meet water demand during the current drought or serve to ameliorate the effects of drought conditions in the future by contributing to groundwater storage.

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.

**POSTED**

**FEB 17 2015**

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

**FILED**

**FEB 17 2015**

HUGH NGUYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

Jo Ann Corey

Staff Member Responsible for Preparation

[Signature]  
District Secretary

February 12, 2015  
Date

**Exhibit "A"**

