

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Ventura
800 Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009

From (Public Agency):
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Project Title: Operational Changes at the Santa Felicia Project (Project)
Project Applicant: United Water Conservation District (District)
Project Location - Specific: The Project is located at Santa Felicia Dam in eastern Ventura County, approximately five miles north of the city of Piru.

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Ventura

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project is to amend the September 12, 2008, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Santa Felicia Dam Project (FERC Project No. 2153). The Project will modify the minimum instream flows released from Santa Felicia Dam into lower Piru Creek. Current minimum instream flows are described in Section 403 of the current FERC license. Current minimum instream flows are equal to natural inflow at Lake Piru plus one cubic foot per second (cfs), ranging from 1.4 cfs to 5 cfs.

The Project will replace the current minimum instream flows with flows listed in the June 2012 Water Release Plan (Plan). Flows listed in the Plan were developed in accordance with National Marine Fisheries Service's May 5, 2008 Biological Opinion and consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United State Forest Service, and United State Fish and Wildlife Service. The flows contained in the Plan were developed to support: 1) unimpeded Oncorhynchus mykiss (steelhead) migration in Piru Creek downstream of Santa Felicia Dam and in the Santa Clara River from the confluence of Piru Creek downstream to the Vern Freeman Diversion Dam; 2) formation and preservation of freshwater rearing sites for steelhead throughout Piru Creek downstream of Santa Felicia Dam; and 3) creation and maintenance of freshwater spawning sites for steelhead throughout Piru Creek downstream of Santa Felicia Dam. Dissolved oxygen (DO) monitoring will be required in the certification to ensure compliance with the water quality objective and protection of beneficial uses.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: United Water Conservation District
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));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, §15301 and Class 6 §15306
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 1 exemption applies because the Project involves minor operational alterations to an existing facility with no construction or expansion of use. The Project involves increasing minimum flows release from Santa Felicia Dam into lower Piru Creek for the benefit of steelhead. The Class 6 exemption applies to the DO monitoring, which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Contact Person: Parker Thaler Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 341-5321

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? [X] Yes [] No

Signature: Tom Howard Date: 3/ Executive Director

Date received for filing at OPR: MAR 06 2014