

Agency: Root Creek Water District
Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13
Self-Certification Form

BACKGROUND: Consistent with the March 28, 2022 Drought Executive Order N-7-22 Action 13, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) developed this self-certification form to allow local agencies to submit their proposed recharge projects to DWR and that the project is eligible for the CEQA suspension. After reviewing the information submitted via this self-certification form, DWR will review and may concur. A list of activities eligible for the CEQA suspension is maintained on DWR's website at: <https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought>.

INSTRUCTIONS: Entities carrying out a proposed recharge project that may meet the objectives of Executive Order N-7-22 Action 13 should complete this self-certification form as soon as possible to initiate DWR's review and potential concurrence that the project is eligible for the CEQA suspension. Please submit one self-certification form for each individual project. For questions, please email SGMPS@water.ca.gov.

- 1. Please provide a short description of the proposed recharge project in which you are seeking a CEQA suspension, demonstrating how it is consistent with Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13 (include historical land use and current land use on the proposed project location):**

The In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) is a water recharge project located in the Root Creek Water District (RCWD or District) in Madera County. The Project received grant funding through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) grant contract awarded to the District and was completed in 2014. Since 2014, the project has recharged an estimated 3,400 acre-feet per year (AFY). The Project included the construction of 2.7 miles of 48" pipeline, 4.8 miles of 8"-12" lateral pipeline, 16 well connections and connection to the Madera Irrigation District (MID) Lateral 6.2. A map of the current service area and distribution system is shown on Attachment A. This past year a lateral was removed due to development and this project includes construction of a significant lateral to expand the service area of the project by approximately 1,000 acres. The proposed project consists of constructing two miles of new 24 inch PVC pipeline from the existing conveyance pipeline. The project will utilize existing water supply contracts and import surface water from the Central Valley Project from Millerton Reservoir. Attachment B shows the proposed extension of the system and the lands proposed to be served by the project. The existing system is a gravity system and is designed to continue in gravity flow, however a booster station may be added to the new pipeline lateral to allow for meeting increased flow and delivery locations. The project is anticipated to annually recharge approximately 1,000 af/yr by importing surface water and shutting off pumps in the local area that would have pumped groundwater to meet the agricultural demand. Attachment C shows the wells where pumping will be reduced. It should be recognized that the surface water delivery system is currently operated during the summer irrigation season when irrigation demands are the highest. The irrigation canals that deliver surface water supplies are generally dry during the winter months. Other features consist of removing an existing elbow and adding a tee to connect the new pipeline; three new turnouts including a delivery into an existing regulating reservoir. The land use is currently designated Agriculture and is active farmland.

2. Please describe the anticipated benefits and the basis of those benefits from implementing the proposed recharge project (in acre-feet/year or estimated volume of water, if possible):

-The proposed Project will allow for as much as 3,000 AFY of additional surface water use. Surface water supplies are not available in all years. Anticipated average annual recharge of 1,000 AFY.

-In -Lieu project will reduce groundwater pumping.

-Allow District farmers to continue farming.

-1,000 acres of additional Ag land will be able to use surface water.

-Existing Agreements:

MID - purchase up to 10,000 AFY of Class 2 water.

West Side Mutual Water Co - up to 7,000 AFY.

3. Please identify the category this proposed recharge project would fall under (multiple answer can be selected):

Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge.

DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program. (Selected option).

Other: In Lieu Recharge. (Selected option).

4. Please identify which of the objectives the proposed recharge project meets as described in the Executive Order (multiple answers can be selected):

Projects is on Open Lands (which are those lands that are native or largely undeveloped from agricultural or industrial practices. These lands could include flood bypasses, natural areas, wildlife preserves, or existing managed wetlands.)

Project is on Working Lands (which are those lands that have been previously developed for agricultural or other industrial practices. These lands could include active or fallowed agricultural lands, gravel and sand operations, open storage fields, or other similar working lands.) (Selected option).

5. Please describe how the proposed recharge project meets the following objectives as described in the Executive Order:

Project will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by the drought (To mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, projects should include the replenishment of groundwater resources to the subsurface, especially shallow aquifers, for the purpose of storage, temporary or otherwise. Drought impacts to groundwater conditions would include lowering of groundwater levels that may have occurred due to lack of natural recharge or groundwater pumping that may especially impact shallow aquifers.) (Selected option).

6. What funding sources are supporting the proposed recharge project? (Please list all local, state, federal, private or public funding sources):

DWR Prop 68 Grant.

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

3/1/2023.

8. Please provide the estimated project end date or date project can be considered operational:
6/30/2023.
9. Please identify if the proposed recharge project requires a new water right permit to be issued by the State Water Board under their Groundwater Storage Water Rights Permitting process. If an existing water right is being used, please provide the permit number under the 'Other' category (For more information, visit: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/groundwater_recharge/):
- No new water right is needed; already have existing water rights or agreements for this proposed recharge project. (Selected option).*
 - Need a temporary water right for this recharge project (180 days).*
 - Need a temporary water right for this recharge project (1 to 5 years).*
 - Need a streamlined permit for a standard water right.*
 - Need a standard water right for this recharge project.*
 - Other.*
10. When do you anticipate your proposed recharge project will be ready for construction phase (i.e. shovel ready)?
Spring of 2023.
11. Are there other permitting requirements necessary to carry out the proposed recharge project. If so, please describe.
NA.
12. Please describe if there are any anticipated water quality or other environmental impacts associated with the proposed recharge project (if so, please describe the mitigation measures that will be taken to remedy or offset those impacts):
None. As part of MID's NPDES compliance for their Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP), the District tests the water before, during, and 7 days after herbicide treatments for water quality data for the water conveyance facility that serves the District's turnout.
13. Please provide the name of the Local Agency implementing the proposed recharge project:
Root Creek Water District.
14. Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact First and Last Name:
Brian Ehlers (Root Creek WD - Engineer); Julia Stornetta (Root Creek WD General Manager/Secretary).
15. Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact Email and Phone Number:
Behlers@ppeng.com, (559) 449-2700; Julia@rootcreekwd.com, (559) 970-8778.
16. Please identify the groundwater basin in which the proposed recharge project will be located. If possible, please provide the proposed project location coordinates (latitude, longitude). (For

more information, visit:

<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true>):

Madera Basin – 5-22.06.

36.904407.-119.821287.

17. Please provide the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative to a GSP that the proposed recharge project is associated:

Root Creek Water District is the GSA.

GSP: Root Creek.

18. Please provide any additional information you would like to include in your Self-Certification Form:

None.

Request from State – How will reduction of pumping be verified – Surface water diversions will be metered to the on-farm reservoirs on the sites. The amount will be quantified by meters.

While delivering surface water supplies, staff will filed verify reduction of pumping from wells.

In signing this self-certification form, I understand that the Department of Water Resources will rely on this signed certification form to determine if a concurrence with the Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13 is granted for the project described and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this self-certification form may result in the invalidation of the CEQA suspension.

Furthermore, I understand that by receiving concurrence from the Department of Water Resources concerning eligibility for the CEQA suspension outlined in EO N-7-22, DWR makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the project feasibility, benefits claimed from the completed project, adequacy of the project, potential environmental impacts of the construction activities or completed project, and expressly disclaims liability for project performance, environmental impacts during and after construction, project construction disturbances, unmitigated environmental impacts post-construction, or project failures.

Original document signed by Brian Ehlers on 4/20/2023

Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Date
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Title	Agency
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Original document signed by Julia Stornetta on 4/20/2023

Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Date
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Title	Agency
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