

Attachment A

Agency: James Irrigation 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 James Irrigation District (JID) James Bypass Basins Storage and Recharge Project entails the construction of a check structure on the existing James Bypass auxiliary channel (easterly), a new turnout off the channel to existing Basin No. 2, upgraded metering to existing Basin No. 1, and additional earthwork in existing Basin No. 3 and the northeasterly channel embankment, and a new booster pump for recovery of water for in-lieu recharge for James ID. The project is primarily located in Section 34, T15S, R17E M.D.B.&M. and Fresno County APN 030-12-16ST. As the project is downstream of existing James Weir, the proposed check structure will provide a point of control on the auxiliary channel as well as allowing the control of the water surface to enable an increase in flow into Basin No. 2 and in the future to Basin No. 3. The check structure will allow water to pond for recharge in the auxiliary channel that does not presently occur. The proposed turnout will allow increased flow capacity to fill Basin No. 2 and with the check structure allow smaller and shorter duration flood flows to be quickly captured and recharged. The proposed booster pump will provide recovery of water from Basin No. 2 for in-lieu recharge instead of only dedicated recharge. Currently the lower third storage in Basin No. 2 cannot be recovered by the lower flow gravity connection to existing Basin No. 1. JID previously installed the control structure on the channel inlet that makes the proposed project possible.

- 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 average annual project yield for 31 days of water availability from the James Bypass is estimated at 1,770 AF as estimated from historic hydrology and infiltration of 0.5ft/day. The yield for the project components is as follows:
 - Basin 2 at 1,670 AF
 - Auxiliary Channel at 100 AF, and
 - Future Basin 3 at 300 AF once removal of 2-foot of material occurs.

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*
- Other*

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.)*

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.)*

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

The initial components for Phase 1 (planning, design, and check structure construction) are planned to be funded from Proposition 68, the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant program and local agency funds. Funding for future construction phases is unknown at this time.

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

03/01/2022

8. Please provide the estimated project end date or date project can be considered operational:

03/31/2025

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

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

Kings River Water Association Licenses 11517-11

10. When do you anticipate your proposed recharge project will be ready for construction phase (i.e. shovel ready)?

07/01/2024

11. Are there other permitting requirements necessary to carry out the proposed recharge project. If so, please describe.

Permits and approvals may include US Army Corps of Engineers, 404 Permit; Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), Encroachment Permit; Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Stream Bed Alteration Agreement; and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

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

13. Please provide the name of the Local Agency implementing the proposed recharge project:

James Irrigation District

14. Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact First and Last Name:

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

15. Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact Email and Phone Number:

mamorelli@jamesid.org, (559) 693-4356

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>):

Kings Subbasin:

Latitude: 36.583815°, Longitude: -120.105988°

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:

James GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Coordination agreement with other GSA's in the Kings Basin.

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

Form:

N/A

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.

Manny Amorelli	<i>Manny Amorelli</i>	1/11/2023
_____ Name of Authorized Representative	_____ Signature	_____ Date
Executive Director	James GSA	
_____ Title	_____ Agency	