Attachment A

Agency: Aliso 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 proposed Aliso Water District GSA Chowchilla Bypass Project includes facilities with a fish screen, pump, pipe installations and construction (as needed) to facilitate direct recharge at a proposed 75-acre recharge basin, on-farm recharge, or in-lieu recharge.

   The proposed Project includes activities related to the diversion of noncontracted water from flood flows at seven points of diversion in the Chowchilla Bypass. The water will be pumped using pumps with fish screens installed. The water will be used by Aliso Water District for groundwater recharge and later recovery for irrigation purposes. When available and if demand is needed, flood flows diverted will also be used for in-lieu recharge. The maximum instantaneous rate of withdrawal will not exceed 100 cubic feet per second (ds) or 10,000 acre-feet per year.

   The land use is historically and currently agriculture.

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 project will yield 10,000 Acre-feet in a flood year, or 2,500 AF on an average annual basis (flood water is typically available every 4-years).

3. **Please identify the category this proposed recharge project would fall under (multiple answer can be selected):**
   ☒*Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge. (selected option).*
   ☒*DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program. (selected option).*
   ☐*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.) (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):**

   The project will be constructed using funds from Proposition 68, the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant program. The District has reserves that will be applied to the project. Additional funds are being obtained through infrastructure loans that will be repaid through the district's existing groundwater extraction fees that are dedicated to capital improvements to achieve sustainability.

7. **Please provide the estimated project start date:**

   1/1/2024.

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

   12/1/2024.

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). (selected option).*

   ☐*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. (selected option).*
☒*Other. The District applies for a temporary 180 day permit on an annual basis. Our current permit number is T033324. We submitted a Standard right in 2020. (selected option).*

10. **When do you anticipate your proposed recharge project will be ready for construction phase (i.e. shovel ready)?**
    1/1/2024.

11. **Are there other permitting requirements necessary to carry out the proposed recharge project. If so, please describe.**
    An encroachment permit from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, a Lake and Streambed alteration agreement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

12. **Please describe if there are any anticipated water quality or other environmental impacts associated with the propose 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:**
    Aliso Water District.

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

15. **Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact Email and Phone Number:**
    info@alisowdgsa.org, 559-779-5842.

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):**
    Delta-Mendota Subbasin Diversion Point: Lat 36.836993, Long -120.304923
    75 Acre Basin Center: Lat 36.840304, Long -120.275725.

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:**
    Aliso Water District GSA and Aliso Water District GSP.

18. **Please provide any additional information you would like to include in your Self-Certification Form:**
    This project is critical to the long-term sustainability of the GSA, the Subbasin, and the surrounding Subbasins, and aligns closely with goals identified in state water resiliency and management plans.

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 Roy Catania and Joe Hopkins on 8/10/2023

Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Date
Title	Agency	
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Title	Agency	