

Agency: County of Fresno
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 Project consists of the construction of an approximately 57-acre recharge facility in Fresno County on a site owned by the County of Fresno. Dirt excavated from the area will be stockpiled on-site. Water will be delivered to the recharge area through a new on-site conveyance channel that will be served by a new turnout from the Liberty Canal. The site historically was farmed as part of the former Elkhorn Juvenile Detention Facility. The land has been open for several years but has been regularly disked and maintained. The source of the water will be excess water on the Kings River, helping to relieve flooding conditions in the Kings River area and downstream in above average water years. Fresno County is a member of the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NFKGSA) along with 14 other public or private entities. Fresno County represents a white area or other non-represented land within the GSA, which is in a high priority, critically overdrafted subbasin with multiple Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). The Project will help mitigate groundwater overdraft conditions impacted by drought and help the GSA achieve groundwater sustainability.

- 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):**

Based on geotechnical borings at the site and operation of other nearby recharge basins, the proposed Project is expected to have a long-term average recharge rate of 0.75 feet per day. The water source for the Project will largely be Kings River floodwater from participating GSA member units of the Kings River Water Association who own the water rights, including pre-1914 water rights. The NFKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) estimates that floodwater on the Kings River is available once every three years for an average duration of 115 days. With a recharge area of approximately 50 acres, the proposed Project is anticipated to recharge an average of 4,310 acre-feet during an average flood release (0.75 ft/day x 50 acres x 115 days) or

an average annual recharge volume of approximately 1,440 AF/year. The Project would help replenish the groundwater aquifer and help provide flood protection for the area.

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

- Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge. (selected option)*
- 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.) (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.)*

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

Funding for the proposed Project is from the American Recue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

July 1, 2024

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

December 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. (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)?

July 1, 2024

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

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Dust Control Plan (DCP)

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):

There are no anticipated water quality or other environmental impacts associated with the proposed Project. The land has been regularly disked and maintained. Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the construction contract for the proposed Project to minimize potential releases of soils or sediments, hazardous materials spills, and minimize air quality emissions.

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

County of Fresno – Department of Public Works and Planning, Water and Natural Resources Division.

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

Kevin Johansen, Project Engineer

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

kjohansen@ppeng.com (559) 449-2700 Ext. 314

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>):

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:
Kings Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region (5-22.08). Project latitude/longitude coordinates: 36°29'54.9"N 119°46'41.1"W

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

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 Kevin Johansen on 4/1/2024.

Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Date
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Title	Agency
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