

July 17, 2023

Larry Dotson
Senior Engineer, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation
2975 N. Farmersville Boulevard
Farmersville, CA 93223

RE: Executive Order N-7-22: Request for Proposed Activities to be Conducted Under Suspension

Dear Mr. Dotson,

I am responding to your letter dated June 24, 2023, in which you request my determination that activities described in that letter are eligible to be conducted under a suspension of laws provided in paragraph 5 of Executive Order N-7-22 (March 28, 2022). Among other things, Executive Order N-7-22 suspends Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division under specified circumstances. Specifically, projects may operate under that suspension where the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency determines that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension, taking into account the purpose of accelerating conservation projects that are necessary to address impacts of the drought, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment. In your letter, you describe certain activities that the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District commits to undertaking to conserve water, including expanding an existing groundwater recharge basin in order to generate an average of 1,440 acre-feet per year of recharge in addition to increased flood protection and environmental benefits for migrating waterfowl.

Because the activities described in your letter will improve storage of water in years of excess precipitation, and will immediately preserve water supplies by removing an existing walnut orchard, I find that this project (as more fully described in your letter which is attached here) is eligible to be conducted under Executive Order N-7-22.

Please note that this suspension does not alter any other requirements imposed by any other law, and any material modification of or departure from the project described in your letter may independently trigger obligations under Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division.

Sincerely,



Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for Natural Resources

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