



**GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor  
**WADE CROWFOOT**, Secretary for Natural Resources

March 3, 2023

Jon D. Rubin  
Assistant General Manager and General Counsel  
Westlands Water District  
3130 N. Fresno Street  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703-6056

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

Dear Mr. Rubin,

I am responding to your letter dated March 2, 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 the Westlands Water District's commitment to acquiring and permanently following 84 acres of land, 61 acres of which are currently planted with almond trees.

Because the activities described in your letter will reduce demands for surface and groundwater, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wade Crowfoot'.

Wade Crowfoot  
Secretary for Natural Resources

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