



GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
WADE CROWFOOT, Secretary for Natural Resources

April 19, 2022

Jon D. Rubin
Assistant General Manager & General Counsel
Westlands Water District
P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703

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 April 14, 2022, 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 Westlands Water District commits to undertaking to conserve water, including purchasing and permanently following certain land that currently contains an orchard.

Because the activities described in your letter will reduce water demand through permanently following the property to be acquired, 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. Therefore, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended for that project. 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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