



## Self-Certification for Groundwater Recharge Project Eligibility, Executive Order N-7-22

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 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](mailto:SGMPS@water.ca.gov).

Excerpt from Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13:

*With respect to recharge projects under either Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge or the Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program occurring on open and working lands to replenish and store water in groundwater basins that will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, for any (a) actions taken by state agencies, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the Department of Water Resources concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b), Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended. (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/March-2022-Drought-EO.pdf>)*

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 will construct the Root Creek Recharge Project (Project) in southeastern Madera County. The Project includes construction of three control structures within a 3.5-mile segment of Root Creek. At each proposed control structure there will be a flashboard riser and embankments varying in height, which will include culverts and control gates intended to control the water level and flow through the embankments at a capacity of up to 550 cfs. The project proposes three infiltration basins within the Root Creek Channel.

The proposed infiltration basins will have the ability to store and reregulate waters, percolate water to the underground for increasing the local water supplies, minimize the flooding downstream of the project, and provide for catchment of silt loading that moves through the system which then deposits and accumulates downstream. Implementation of the Project would allow for the importation of surface water supplies under contract with the District and allow the water to be recharged to the underground.

The land use is currently designated Agriculture, Residential and Open Space with the proposed improvements within Root Creek.

Included as Attachment 1 is a map of the District with Riverstone highlighted in green. The District has historically been exclusive to agricultural production. Commencing in 2017, the portion identified as Riverstone has been

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):

Planned modifications for storm water crossings: Existing crossing 24" – going to enlarge to 60"

Area of recharge area: #1 – 16 ac, #2 – 6 ac, #3 – 7 ac

Add 3 concrete control structures with 48 inch operating gate and board overflow weir, Dirtwork – 90,000 cy

An estimated 0.5 foot per day for 4 months, up to 1,750 AFY of water recharged.

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

- Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge  
 DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program  
 Intentional Recharge

4. Please identify which of the objectives the proposed recharge project meets as described in the Executive Order (multiple answers can be selected):

- Project 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.)

5. Please identify which of the objectives the proposed recharge project meets as described in the Executive Order (multiple answers can be selected):

- 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).

NA. Private - District

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

Spring 2023

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

Fall 2023

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/](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)
- 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)
- 

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

Fall 2023

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

CDFW LSA-1602 to remove existing culvert for 50 cfs and replace with a culvert for 500 cfs

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):

It is anticipated that Biological environmental commitments for Nesting Birds and California Tiger Salamander will be required of contractor.

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

Root Creek Water District

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

Julia Stornetta

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

Julia@rootcreekwd.com  
(559) 970-8778

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>):

Madera Basin – 5-22.06

36.901386  
-119.839609

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:

Root Creek Water District is the GSA  
GSP: Root Creek

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

None



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Excerpt from Executive Order N-7-22, Action 13:

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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 In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) is a water recharge project located in the Root Creek Water District (RCWD or District) in Madera County. The Project received grant funding through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) grant contract awarded to the District and was completed in 2014. Since 2014, the project has recharged an estimated 3,400 AFY. The Project included the construction of 2.7 miles of 48" pipeline, 4.8 miles of 8"-12" lateral pipeline, 16 well connections and connection to the Madera Irrigation District (MID) Lateral 6.2. This past year a lateral was removed due to development and this project includes construction of a significant lateral to expand the service area of the project by approximately 1,000 acres. The proposed project consists of constructing two miles of new 24 inch PVC pipeline from the existing conveyance pipeline. The project will utilize existing water supply contracts and import surface water from the Central Valley Project from Millerton Reservoir. The existing system is a gravity system however a booster station will be added to the new pipeline lateral to allow for meeting increased flow and delivery locations. Other features consist of removing an existing elbow and adding a tee to connect the new pipeline; three new turnouts including a delivery into an existing regulating reservoir. The land use is currently designated Agriculture and is active farmland.

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 proposed Project will allow for as much as 3,000 AFY of additional surface water use.
- In -Lieu project will reduce groundwater pumping.
- Allow District farmers to continue farming.
- 1,000 acres of additional Ag land will be able to use surface water.
- Existing Agreements:
  - MID - purchase up to 10,000 AFY of Class 2 water.
  - West Side Mutual Water Co - up to 7,000 AFY.

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

- Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge
- DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program
- In Lieu Recharge

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

DWR Prop 68 Grant

7. Please provide the estimated project start date:

Spring 2023

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

3 month timeline, Summer 2023 (2 month bid process)

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/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/groundwater_recharge/)):

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- Need a streamlined permit for a standard water right
- Need a standard water right for this recharge project)
- 

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

Spring of 2023

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

NA

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):

None. As part of MID's NPDES compliance for their Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP), the District tests the water before, during, and 7 days after herbicide treatments for water quality data for the water conveyance facility that serves the District's turnout.

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

Root Creek Water District

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

Julia Stornetta

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

Julia@rootcreekwd.com  
(559) 970-8778

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:

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Madera Basin – 5-22.06

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-119.821287

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GSP: Root Creek

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

None