Attachment A

Agency: Westlands Water District
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 Pasajero Groundwater Recharge Project (Project) includes construction of a gravity turnout with a capacity of 30.25 cubic feet per second (cfs) on the Coalinga Canal (Canal), traveling screen filters, pressurized filtration system, distribution system, two recharge basins, fifteen (15) recharge wells, booster pump. The Project will recharge up to 10,800 acre-feet per year (AFY) of available surplus surface water into the Westside Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources [DWR] Basin No. 5-022.09, "Basin") through a series of recharge wells and percolation basins. Each recharge well will be screened in the permeable soils beneath the site. Water will be conveyed from a new turnout on the Coalinga Canal through a buried pipeline to the proposed site. Jack and bore will be required to cross under the Los Gatos Creek and to the north area of the site. The Project area was historically in agricultural us but is currently fallowed. The Project will make the Basin more resilient to drought and align with the sustainability goals of the Basin, to continue agricultural production while maintaining groundwater supplies and quality for all beneficial users of groundwater. The Project is located in western Fresno County, in the southern portion of the Basin and is bifurcated by the Los Gatos Creek (APN 073-090-07 and 073-090-08), however the source of recharge water will not be the Los Gatos Creek. The Project is funded by DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program.

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 Project anticipates recharging up to 10,800 AFY of available surplus surface water into the Subbasin during wet hydrologic years and will provide benefits to the groundwater system in the southern portion of the Basin, including the area surrounding the Pasajero Site. While the exact distance that a significant or quantifiable groundwater level benefit will extend from the Pasajero Site is unknown, it is indisputable that the effects of recharge will improve Basin

conditions In the vicinity of the Project. By benefiting groundwater conditions in this area, the Project will provide indirect benefit to the residents of these DAC/SDAC areas through improved agricultural water supply conditions which support the local economy.

The Project will benefit groundwater conditions in the Basin by adding water to the Basin that would otherwise not be recharged. The improvement of groundwater conditions will manifest as improved values for sustainability indicators relevant to the Basin and codified in the Westside GSP's Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds.

3. **Please identify the category this proposed recharge project would fall under (multiple answer can be selected):**
   ☐*Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge.*
   ☒*DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program. (selected option).*
   ☐*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.) (selected option).*

6. **What funding sources are supporting the proposed recharge project? (Please list all local, state, federal, private or public funding sources).**
   Proposition 68 SGM Implementation Grant Program.
   Westlands Water District's O&M water rates and Grant Reserves.

7. **Please provide the estimated project start date:**
   7/28/2021.

8. **Please provide the estimated project end date or date project can be considered operational:**
   1/1/2024.

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)?**
    February 1, 2023.

11. **Are there other permitting requirements necessary to carry out the proposed recharge project. If so, please describe.**
    Yes, NEPA analysis is required since the project will cross Bureau of Reclamation land. Also a Lake and Streambed Alteration permit from the CDFW because the new pipeline would be jack and bored under the Los Gatos Creek.

12. **Please describe if there are any anticipated water quality or other environmental impacts associated with the propose recharge project (if so, please describe the mitigation measures that will be taken to remedy or offset those impacts):**
    No water quality impacts or other environmental impacts anticipated.

13. **Please provide the name of the Local Agency implementing the proposed recharge project:**
    Westlands Water District.

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

15. **Please provide a Project Manager Point of Contact Email and Phone Number:**
    dvang@wwd.ca.gov, 559-241-6202.

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):**
    Westside Subbasin.
    36° 9'58.49"N, 120°12'3.56"W

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:**
Westside Subbasin GSP: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/8

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

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.

Jose Gutierrez		11/10/2022
Name of Authorized Representative	Signature	Date

Chief Operating Officer	Westlands Water District
Title	Agency