



**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY FINDING THE DELTA RICE CONVERSION PROGRAM EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.**

**Whereas**, the Delta Rice Conversion Program (Project) will support conversion of up to 7,500 acres of agriculture in the Delta to wildlife-friendly rice; rice cultivation slows subsidence, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides ecosystem benefits, particularly for migratory birds, compared to non-rice row crops; and

**Whereas**, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorically exempts certain projects from environmental review, including minor alterations of land (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15304); and

**Whereas**, CEQA provides that if a project is categorically exempt, environmental review is not required, provided that there are no unusual circumstances, the project will not have the potential to cause a significant environmental effect, and certain identified exceptions to the exemption are not triggered (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15300.2); and

**Whereas**, the Project does not have the potential to significantly affect the environment or otherwise present any unusual circumstances; and

**Whereas**, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy is the lead agency for the Project, and its governing Board is the decision-making body for the Project; and

**Whereas**, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a)(2), the documents that constitute the record for the Project may be viewed on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's website for 30 days or inspected at its office by any person.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Board of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy finds, based on the whole record before it in its independent judgment, that the Project is exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations

Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15304 and that there are no exceptions, including unusual circumstances, that apply to the Project nor any evidence to suggest that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment; and

- b. The Board of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy hereby authorizes and directs its staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the California State Clearinghouse; and
- c. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are located on the Delta Conservancy's website (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>).

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS OCTOBER 25, 2023.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

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Mitch Mashburn, Board Chair