

2019078103

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Dept. of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Title: Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, Discharge Lines, and Siphon House Geotechnical Exploration

Project Location City & County: Western Merced County

Project Location – Specific: The California Aqueduct from milepost (MP) 86.73 to MP 86.98, approximately 8 miles south of the City of Los Banos.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: This exploration will assess the ongoing differential settling of the Dos Amigos Pumping Plant (DAPP), siphon house, and discharge lines. The drill hole depths will allow DWR to characterize the soils and collect undisturbed soil samples for index and strength testing.

Geotechnical exploration will consist of about 18 cone penetration tests (CPT) and 12 hollow stem auger (HSA) drill holes around the siphon house and discharge lines, all of which will be to depths ranging from 60 to 220 feet. About another 38 CPT and 12 HSA will be drilled around the DAPP and adjoining discharge lines to depths ranging from 70 to 220 feet. All drilling will be done west of Pole Line Road. A coring machine will be used to core through the asphalt at approximately 32 boring locations. The cores will be up to 12 inches in diameter. Up to 4.8 cubic feet (36 gallons) of asphalt debris will be generated during the coring; this debris will be placed in a 55-gallon drum and will be sealed for landfill disposal after drilling is complete. The material from the HSA boreholes not needed for testing will also be contained in drums and disposed of in a landfill. A cement bentonite grout will be used to tremie grout the CPT and HSA exploration holes to near surface and will be capped with about a foot of soil. State Water Project users will benefit.

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption: 15306 (Information Collection)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 18 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: The project involves geotechnical exploration to characterize the soils and collect undisturbed soil samples for index and strength testing at DAPP. The work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource including cultural resources.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person:

Telephone:

Signature: Jeanne M. Kuttel **Date:** 7/17/19 **Title:** Chief, Div. of Eng.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

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