

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzago Rd.
Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: Westlands Water District California Aqueduct MP 123.89R Turnout Modifications

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: The work site is on the right side (R) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at MP 123.89, approximately 1.42 miles northwest of the intersection of South Derrick Avenue and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requested permission to encroach on DWR's right-of-way (ROW) to modify the existing turnout at MP 123.89R. The work includes demolishing the existing infrastructure, filling the pipe that now lies under the Aqueduct road with concrete, and removing all pumps and pipes from the Aqueduct liners and in the ROW. A 222-foot-long by 4-foot-wide by 5-foot-deep trench will be excavated from the retaining wall structure at MP 123.89R, trenching south through the ROW; the excavation will go through the Aqueduct road and embankment. An estimated 325 cubic yards of soil will be excavated. The Aqueduct road will be excavated by first saw-cutting the existing asphalt and trenching to the 5-foot depth. Once the trench is cut, a 24-inch conveyance steel pipe will be installed, and the trench will be backfilled and compacted; the asphalt will be replaced with hot mix asphaltic concrete. All compaction will be performed and tested to meet specifications; a vacuum truck will be used to properly locate MCI cables.

Once the existing infrastructure is dismantled, a concrete retaining wall will be built and two new oil-less, water lubricated, slant mount pumps will be installed. There will be no off-canal pumps; the conveyance will be provided through a pipeline outside of DWR's ROW. A new electrical facility will be placed outside of DWR's ROW.

Work and staging will only occur from MP 124.00R to MP 123.70R. No work, staging, or stockpiling will occur in areas with mesquite vegetation. WWD and its Contractors will benefit.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources, as Responsible Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- X Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

WWD will encroach on DWR's ROW to modify an existing turnout. Work will occur in areas with an average slope of 20 percent or less, there will be no changes to land use density. DWR, as a Responsible Agency, will issue an encroachment permit to WWD for this work, Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alteration in Land Use Limitation-Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) applies. WWD is responsible for any other CEQA documentation needed.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature:  Date: 12/2/19

Printed Name: Frank Ruiz Title: UC Supervisor

Phone: 209-827-6134

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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