

## 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:** CA Dept. of Water Resources  
San Luis Field Division  
31770 Gonzaga Rd. Ca 95322

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Water Resources

**Project Title:** Routine Maintenance in Arroyo Pasajero (AP) Terminus

**Project Location City & County:** Fresno

**Project Location – Specific:** The AP channel and Westside Detention Basin (WSDB) are about 2 miles north of the City of Huron, 2 miles west of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct), and 1.5 miles south of Highway 198.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Routine maintenance of the AP channel enables DWR's AP training dike to safely route flows to the WSDB, which stores floodwaters and sediment which would otherwise threaten the integrity of the Aqueduct. DWR's San Luis Field Division (SLFD) will annually maintain the channel and embankments as needed based on annual rainfall and sediment accumulation. Sediment will be removed from the channel, as needed, to maintain Caltrans' design specifications and to protect the Aqueduct where necessary. Low-lying areas exist east and west of Lassen Avenue, adjacent to the north side of the AP channel. Collectively, these areas have enough space to contain approximately 90,500 CY of sediment removed from the channel. Sediment deposited in these areas will be compacted and graded in a way that will support the main channel geometry. SLFD will periodically maintain the existing 36-inch diameter culvert located beneath Lassen Avenue north of the main bridge. The culvert captures highway runoff during rain events. Culvert maintenance involves flushing it out with a water truck or by utilizing a Vactor truck. The maintenance frequency will depend on the amount of runoff received annually. Since the completion of Caltrans' State Route 269 project, there is currently no native vegetation in the channel or on the banks. However, should vegetation grow in the future, cutting and mowing will be done with hand tools and heavy equipment followed with herbicide treatment. All vegetation will remain onsite to be burned within the same year of work, when burn permits are acquired. Herbicide application will follow a Herbicide Plan.

Depending on the amount of flow, up to 250,000 CY of sediment will be removed or re-graded, annually, in order to clear the channel, reconstruct the embankments, and to maintain the channel depths established by Caltrans and to protect the Aqueduct.

**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: 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15301 (Existing Facilities)
- Statutory Exemptions:

**Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:** The project will maintain the Arroyo Pasajero channel to preserve the current Caltrans' design specifications. The maintenance activities will cause only minor changes in the existing project area; no healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed. DWR's WSDB is an existing flood control facility. Maintenance work in it will not expand the use of the basin beyond design specifications. Categorical Exemptions 15304 and 15301 apply.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Department of Water Resources

**Contact Person:** Valerie Clevenger

**Telephone:** 209-827-7769

**Signature:** Valerie Clevenger **Date:** 3/25/2020 **Title:** Utility Crafts Superintendent

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**MAR 27 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**