

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 94236

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: San Luis Field Division Bathymetric Survey and Canal Liner/Embankment Repairs Project

Project Location City & County: Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, and Kings Counties

Project Location – Specific: The project will include canal liner repairs on both sides of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in pools 13 through 21, which are in Reaches 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The northernmost location is in Reach 3 at milepost (MP) MP 66.71 (Check 12), which is approximately 0.6 miles downstream of the intersection of McCabe Road and the Aqueduct. The southernmost location is in Reach 7 at MP 172.40 (Check 21), which is approximately 0.2 miles upstream of the intersection of Milham Road and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Approximately 30 canal liner repair sites in the SLFD right-of-way will be repaired to restore the deteriorating liners to original condition. Damaged sections of canal liner and embankment will be repaired by various methods including grouting of voids, sealing cracks, or removing old liner sections and replacing them with new concrete liners.

An unmanned survey vessel (USV) outfitted with sonar and LiDAR sensors will be used to perform above and below water inspection and assessment of the canal. The high-resolution scan of the canal will help detect any unknown anomalies below water without having to dewater the canal.

The canal liner repairs and bathymetric survey of the canal will help ensure continued safe and reliable water delivery to State Water Project Contractors.

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: 15301 (Existing Facilities)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: The project involves conducting a bathymetric survey and repairing existing Aqueduct liners and embankments to restore them to original condition. The repairs will not involve an expansion of existing or former use and will not have a significant effect on the environment; Categorical Exemption 15301 applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person:

Telephone:

Signature: Nicholas George **Date:** 5/28/2020 **Title:** Engineer, WR

Signed by Lead Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Applicant

MAY 26 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE