

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
San Luis Field Division 31770
Gonzaga Rd. Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Verizon Fiber Optic Line Repairs

Project Location City & County: Merced County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur on the right (R) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way at four locations: mileposts (MP) 70.82 to MP 71.38, MP 79.81 to MP 79.91, MP 80.01 to MP 80.51, and MP 81.43 to MP 81.47. The northernmost location is at the intersection of Santa Nella Road and the Aqueduct and the southernmost location is located approximately 1 mile southeast of the intersection of Creek Road and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: MCI/Verizon has requested permission to encroach on the DWR right-of-way to repair existing fiberoptic lines. To locate existing Verizon communication vaults, they will excavate approximately 2 feet wide by 4 feet deep trenches ranging from 200 feet to 500 feet long. Once the vaults are located, technicians will run tests to determine the location of the damaged fiberoptics. As necessary, the fiberoptic cables will be either replaced or new sections of cable will be spliced into the existing cable. After the repairs are made, all excavated areas will be backfilled, compacted, and recontoured. MCI/Verizon and its clients 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: 15305 (b) and 15301.
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: DWR will issue an encroachment permit to MCI/Verizon so they can repair existing communication fiberoptic lines in DWR's right-of-way. The work will occur in areas that have an average slope of less than 20 percent, and will not change land use density, or expand the use of the lines. Categorical Exemptions 15305 (b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations -Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) and 15301 (Existing Facilities) apply.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person:

Telephone:

Signature:  **Date:** 6/23/20 **Title:** UC Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Applicant

Jun 23 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE