

## Notice of Exemption

2020070440

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 Milepost 98.50R Verizon Fiber Optic Line Repairs

**Project Location City & County:** Fresno 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 within 0.5 miles upstream and downstream of milepost (MP) 98.50. The location is approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the intersection of W. Shields Avenue 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 by 2000 feet long trenches. 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: 7/22/20 Title: UC Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant **Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

**Jul 22 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**