

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 MP 98.95R to MP 100.97R Verizon Fiber Optic Repair

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur, specifically, on the right (R) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way approximately 2000 feet upstream and downstream of milepost (MP) 99.96, but work may occur from MP 98.95R to 100.97R. MP 99.96 is about 0.6 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 its fiberoptic line. They will excavate approximately 2 feet wide by 4 feet deep trenches and about 60 feet long to locate existing Verizon communication vaults so technicians can run tests to determine the location of the damaged fiberoptic fibers. The fiberoptic fibers will be either replaced with new sections of cable spliced into the existing cable as necessary. 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: Frank Ruiz

Telephone: (209) 827-5134

Signature:  **Date:** 9/3/20 **Title:** UC Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Sep 03 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE