

Notice of Exemption

2020090508

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: Sediment and Vegetation Removal from Four O'Neill Forebay Toe Drains

Project Location City & County: Merced County

Project Location – Specific: O'Neill Forebay is in Reach 3A of the California Aqueduct, approximately 1.6 miles southwest of the City of Santa Nella; the toe drains are directly south of the O'Neill Forebay Dam spillway.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR's San Luis Field Division (SLFD) will repair erosions, remove vegetation, and will remove approximately 150 cubic yards of sediment from the following toe drains at the O'Neill Forebay Dam: 132+45, 132+70, 132+80, and 134+75, as well as from the ditch extending approximately 800 feet west of the drain boxes. This work will return the capacity and operation of the drains and ditch to design specifications. Removed sediment will be used to fill erosions on the ditch slopes and will be compacted using an excavator or backhoe. Vegetation and sediment will be removed by excavator or backhoe. All removed vegetation, and any sediment not used to repair erosions, will be temporarily placed adjacent to the ditch until dry, and will then be transported by dump truck to the SLFD spoil pile at the B.F. Sisk Dam. State Water Project users 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: 15301(m) (Existing Facilities-Minor Repairs and Alterations to Existing Dams and Appurtenant Structures Under the Supervision of the Department of Water Resources)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: This work will occur in DWR's existing O'Neill Forebay Dam toe drains. The work will return the capacity and operation of the drains and ditch to design specifications and will protect the integrity of the dam. No expansion of use or capacity to the drains, ditch, or dam will result because of this work. Categorical Exemption 15301(m) (Existing Facilities-Minor Repairs and Alterations to Existing Dams and Appurtenant Structures Under the Supervision of the Department of Water Resources) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Frank Ruiz

Telephone: (209) 827-5134

Signature:  **Date:** 9/25/20 **Title:** UC Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Applicant

Sep 25 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE