

## 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 95814

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

**Project Title:** Geotechnical Exploration, Physical Security and Modernization Project at Dos Amigos Pumping Plant (DAPP) and San Luis Field Division (SLFD) Operations & Maintenance (O&M)

**Project Location City & County:** Los Banos, Merced County

**Project Location – Specific:** DAPP is located 10 miles south of Los Banos, CA. The site is accessed from Interstate 5, Highway 165, and Poleline Road.

SLFD O&M Center is located near the toe of B.F. Sisk Dam, east of the Pacheco Pass and about 10 miles west of Los Banos. The site is accessed from Highway 152, Basalt Road, and Gonzaga Road.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The geotechnical explorations will help determine the geological characteristics of the State Water Project (SWP) facilities at these locations and the information will ensure the security designs have adequate foundations. The California Aqueduct is the major conveyor of water for the SWP and is vital for delivering water to millions of California residents. This work will help ensure continued safe and reliable water delivery to SWP Contractors.

Geotechnical exploration at DAPP and SLFD will consist of making about 4 hollow stem auger (HSA) drill holes. One exploratory drill site is located at the DAPP gate at California Aqueduct milepost 86.73 left-side, another drill site is located adjacent to the SLFD security gate, and two drill sites are in the SLFD O&M Center. The depths of these drill hole will range from 10 to 50 feet. Some material from the HSA drill holes will be collected for testing, and material not needed for testing will be spread at the storage yard. A tremie will be used to fill the HSA exploration holes to near the surface with cement bentonite grout, then each hole will be capped with about a foot of soil.

### 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: 15306 (Information Collection)

Statutory Exemptions:

**Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:** The project involves geotechnical exploration to characterize the soils and collect undisturbed soil samples for index and strength testing at DAPP and SLFD. The work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource including cultural resources.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Water Resources

**Contact Person:** Holly Nichols

**Telephone:** (916) 376-9883

**Signature:** Holly Nichols **Date:** 2/23/2021 **Title:** Sr Engineering Geologist

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant