

## Notice of Exemption

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Dept. of Water Resources  
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzago Rd.  
Gustine, CA 95322

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**Project Title:** California Aqueduct MP 108.85L Westlands Water District Air Valve Repair or Replacement

**Project Location City and County:** Fresno County

**Project Location, Specific:** Work will occur in the right of way (ROW) on the left side (L) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 180.85. The worksite is located approximately 700 feet northeast of the intersection of the South Fairfax Avenue and Jensen Avenue in Fresno County.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Westlands Water District (WWD) has requested permission to encroach in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) ROW to excavate a 12-foot-wide by 12-foot-long by 6-foot-deep area at MP 108.85L. WWD will first remove a protective concrete cylinder and will then excavate approximately 15 cubic yards of soil; the soil will be stockpiled next to the excavated area. Then, a 5-foot section of vertical PVC pipe that ties into the subline will be removed to access the air release valve. The valve will be inspected and will either be repaired or replaced using hand tools, and the vertical PVC pipe will be replaced with galvanized pipe. The area will be backfilled and compacted, and the protective concrete cylinder will be installed in its original location. WWD Contractors will benefit.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** DWR, as Responsible Agency

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Westlands Water District

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** WWD requests encroachment permission to repair or replace an air release valve in DWR's ROW. DWR is the Responsible Agency issuing an encroachment permit to WWD. Work consists of minor alterations to land with an average slope of less than 20 percent. Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) applies. WWD, as the Lead Agency, is responsible for any additional California Environmental Quality Act documentation and will obtain any necessary permits.

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**Responsible Agency Contact:**

Signature: Frank Johnson Date: 8/27/2021

Printed Name: Frank Johnson  
Phone: (209) 827-5190

Title: Utility Craftworker Supv., WR