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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
SLFD 31770 Gonzaga
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency:California Department of Water Resources

Project Title:Milepost 132.77 Irrigation Pipeline Crossing Replacement on West Cerini Avenue Bridge

Project Location City & County:Fresno

Project Location – Specific: Work will take place in Fresno County at milepost (MP) 132.77 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct), where the West Cerini Avenue Bridge crosses the Aqueduct. MP 132.77 is located about 10.39 miles northwest of where the Fresno-Coalinga Road crosses the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The California Department of Water Resources will contract with Diversified Project Services International, Inc. (DPSI) to replace a leaking 700-foot, 12-inch diameter aluminum irrigation pipe located at MP 132.77. The existing aluminum pipe (currently located along the north underside of West Cerini Avenue bridge) will be disconnected from its tie-in points east and west of the Aqueduct, and then it will be relocated onto the deck of the West Cerini Avenue Bridge, it will be immediately reconnected to its tie-in points so irrigation operations can continue while work proceeds. While the aluminum pipeline is temporarily stored on the bridge deck, DPSI will begin installing sections of SDR 17 UV rated High-Density-Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe on the north, underside of the bridge, where the aluminum pipe was located. The HDPE pipe sections will be fusion welded together using a McElroy/Tracstar 412 (series 2) track unit with a data logger. The welded 12-inch diameter HDPE piping will be hung from east to west through existing hanging pipe supports on the bridge. The HDPE pipeline will also be placed through 40-foot long, 16-inch diameter, carbon steel pipe casings located under the east and the west road crossings. The casings will be accessed through roughly 3 feet deep by 3 feet wide by 15 feet long holes that will be excavated on each side of the Aqueduct. The 16-inch road crossing casings with centralizers and rubber closure seals will be placed in each hole and will be backfilled with sand slurry, once the HDPE pipeline is in place. Up to eight 6-inch diameter concrete-filled metal bollards will be placed at each end of the new HDPE pipeline to prevent damage from vehicles and/or farming equipment.

Two 2-foot wide by up to 4-foot-deep trenches will be excavated, as determined by DPSI, one on the west side and one on the east side of West Cerini Avenue; the trenches will be oriented to their respective, above-ground, 90-degree transition joints. The trench west of West Cerini Avenue will be about 300 feet long; the trench east of West Cerini Avenue will be about 120 feet long. Beyond the bridge limits, the HDPE pipeline will be buried in the trenches and backfilled and compacted. The HDPE pipeline will be secured in place using thrust blocks anchored at 3-feet-below-grade depths. Once the

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HDPE pipeline and appurtenances (thrust blocks, pipe supports at the HDPE/PVD transition points, etc.) are completed and ready to be tie into the system, the existing aluminum pipe will be disconnected from the tie-in points and the HDPE pipeline will be connected to the tie-in points. To assure proper performance, DPSI will visually inspect the new HDPE line as it is installed and will perform noninvasive tests to identify any voids in the welds. DPSI will also complete a post-installation flow test to identify pipe leaks.

Once the HDPE piping is fully operational, the aluminum piping, k-rail, and road crossings will be removed, placed in a lay-down yard on the west side of the Aqueduct, and disposed by DPSI at an approved facility. Local farming operations 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 (Existing Facilities)

☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work involves repair of an existing, leaking irrigation pipeline that crosses the Aqueduct. Although the repair requires replacement of the existing pipe, there will be no expansion of the existing use. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Rob Dunlop **Telephone**: (209) 827-5106

Signature: Rob Dunlop **Date**: 9/10/2021 **Title**: Field Division Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant