

## 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 Milepost 108.39 Left Pipe Repair

**Project Location City and County:** Pilibos Ranch, Fresno County

**Project Location, Specific:** Work will occur in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) on the left side (L) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 108.39. The worksite is located approximately 3.7 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Pilibos Ranch in Fresno County.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Westlands Water District (WWD) has requested permission to encroach in DWR's ROW to repair a leaking, damaged, 84-inch cement pipe. Using an excavator and a backhoe to locate the leak, WWD will excavate a 20-foot-wide by 20-foot-long by 15-foot-deep area (approximately 222 cubic yards) immediately northeast of the turnout at MP 108.39L; the soil will be stockpiled next to the excavated area. Water to the pipe will be temporarily shut off and a 1-foot-wide rubber seal will be placed on the inside of the pipe at the leaking joint. The seal will be tightened using hydraulic jacks and bolted to the inside of the pipe to contain the leak. The area will then be backfilled to the original elevation using the stockpile of excavated soil and will be compacted to 90 percent or higher compaction using the excavator and backhoe. The project will benefit WWD Contractors.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Water Resources, 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));

X Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations; Issuance of minor encroachment permits

- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** WWD requests encroachment permission to repair a damaged, leaking pipe in DWR's ROW. DWR is the Responsible Agency that will issue 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: Eleuterio Diaz Date: 10/13/2021

Printed Name: Eleuterio Diaz Title: Utility Craftsworker Supervisor, WR

Phone: (209) 827-5465