

## 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  
San Luis Field Division  
31770 Gonzaga Rd. Ca 95322

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Water Resources

**Project Title:** California Aqueduct MP 52 Drainage Ditch Clearing

**Project Location City & County:** City of Newman in Stanislaus County

**Project Location – Specific:** The work site is approximately 5.2 miles west of the City of Newman in Stanislaus County. The work site is a drainage ditch located on the left (L) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) from approximately milepost (MP) 51.95L to MP 52.70L. The ditch is approximately 2 feet wide and 3,750 feet long.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Under the supervision of Department of Water Resources' San Luis Field Division (SLFD), a California Conservation Corps crew will use hand tools to remove vegetation and sediment from a drainage ditch located on the northeast side of an access road from approximately Aqueduct MP 51.95L to MP 52.70L. Removed vegetation and sediment will be dispersed onsite, outside of the ditch. After the ditch has been cleared, SLFD will discharge water from a water truck at the highest point of the ditch to ensure the ditch is draining properly. This work is necessary to restore the ability of the drainage ditch to drain water, which will reduce erosion and protect the physical integrity of the Aqueduct. State Water Project Contractors 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:** The project involves clearing an existing drainage ditch to restore it to its original design capacity. The project will not result in expansion of original use or capacity of the drainage ditch. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) applies.

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

**Contact Person:** Eleuterio Diaz, Planner/Scheduler and Utility Craftsworker Supervisor, WR  
**Telephone:**(209) 827-5190

**Signature:** Eleuterio Diaz **Date:** 2/15/2022 **Title:** 1/20/22

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant