

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 Milepost 165.80L Erosion Repairs

Project Location City & County: Kings County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur on the left (L) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 165.80. The worksite is located in Kings County and is about 7.5 miles northeast of the City of Avenal.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Ground squirrel burrows and soil erosions are on the Aqueduct embankment at MP 165.80L and need to be filled in. The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) San Luis Field Division (SLFD) will use a backhoe with a sheepsfoot roller attachment to collapse and fill in the burrows and erosions on the waterside and landside slopes of the Aqueduct embankment. Once the burrows and erosions are collapsed and filled, the embankment will be graded and compacted to the original specifications. Approximately five cubic yards of eroded material may be scraped up from the base of the embankment to backfill any large erosions or burrows. In areas that cannot be accessed by the backhoe and its attachments, such as underneath an existing pipeline, SLFD staff will use hand tools to fill the erosions. State Water Contractos will benefit from this project.

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: Categorical Exemption 15304(f) Minor Alterations to Land — minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work will consist of filling burrows and compacting the Aqueduct embankment around an existing pipeline to restore the ground surface to its original specifications. No healthy, mature , or scenic trees will be removed. Categorical Exemption 15304(f) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

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

Signature: Eleuterio Diaz **Date:** 3/29/2022 **Title:** _____

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant