

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
715 P Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Inspection of Irrigation Crossings along California Aqueduct Milepost 134 through 171.

Project Location City & County: Fresno and Kings County

Project Location – Specific: Nineteen sites on both sides of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at mileposts (MP): 134.93, 135.98, 137.83, 138.95, 140.50, 143.21, 155.71, 156.36, 157.42, 160.46, 164.98, 165.59, 166.69, 166.99, 167.64, 168.56 (2 pipes), 170.68 and 171.94.

The northernmost location is MP 134.93, about 7 miles southeast of the community of Cantua Creek in western Fresno County; the southernmost location is MP 171.94, about 1 mile northwest of Kettleman City in western Kings County.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR's contractors will conduct ground penetrating radar surveys to locate 19 irrigation pipelines associated with the Aqueduct. The pipelines will be cleaned and Remote Video Inspection (RVI) will be conducted. Each work area will be about 300 foot on both sides of the Aqueduct at each milepost.

Pipelines at MP 140.50 and MP 155.71 have open ends; standing water inside them will be drained and dispersed on site. The pipes will be cleaned by hydroblasting; water from this process will be dispersed on site. The pipes will be inspected by remotely operated vehicle.

The pipelines at MP 134.93, MP 135.98, MP 138.95, MP 140.50, MP 156.36, MP 157.42, MP 160.46, MP 164.98, MP 165.59, MP 166.69, MP 167.64, MP 168.56, MP 170.68, and MP 171.94 are not in service and have closed ends. These will be accessed with hydrovac excavation, which is equipment using high pressure water to break down the soil; a vacuum will be used to lift the slurry into a debris tank and an excavator will be used to unearth the pipe. Shoring will be installed so the pipelines can be safely accessed. After each pipe has been exposed and investigated, the pipelines will be depressurized, drained, inspected, blocked, and a section will be cut out and removed. Water encountered inside the pipelines during inspection will be tested before being dispersed on site.

Pipelines at MP 137.83, MP 143.21, and MP 166.99 appear to be in service. These pipelines will be located, excavated, inspected, depressurized, and drained. Water encountered inside the pipelines during inspection will be tested before being dispersed on site.

Excavated areas will be backfilled and recontoured to match existing conditions prior to inspections.

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 inspection then possibly repair or grouting and abandonment of existing irrigation pipelines. There will be no expansion of existing use or capacity. All work will be done within the existing Aqueduct embankment and right-of-way. Ground disturbance will be minimal as required.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Constantin Mercea

Telephone: 916-902-6866

Signature:  **Date:** 05/10/2022 **Title:** SENIOR ENGINEER, WR

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant