

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.
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct B&B Communications Splice Case Installation at Mileposts: 55.60L, 55.68L, 55.90L, 56.15L, and 66.33L

Project Location City & County: Merced and Stanislaus Counties

Project Location – Specific: The project is on the left (L) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 55.60L, MP 55.68L, MP 55.90L, MP 56.15L, and MP 66.33L. The northmost point is in Stanislaus County and is approximately 5.6 miles west of the City of Gustine; the southmost point is in Merced County and is approximately 2.6 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Santa Nella.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: B&B Communications, a Department of Water Resources (DWR) Contractor, will use a backhoe, bobcat, or small trencher to excavate approximately 4 foot long by 4 foot wide by 3 foot deep areas at each site to install splice boxes on a DWR communication line. About 2 cubic yards of material will be excavated at each site. Once each excavation is complete, the existing cable will be inspected, any corrosion will be removed, and a new splice case will be installed. When the work is complete, each area will be backfilled and compacted. DWR's San Luis Field Division 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: This project involves installing new splice boxes on an existing DWR communication line. The work will not increase the use or capacity of the communications line. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) applies.

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

Contact Person: Eleuterio Diaz, Planner/Scheduler and Utility Craftsworker, Supervisor, WR

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Eleuterio Diaz **Date:** 6/6/2022

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant