

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
31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 130.30L to 131.10L Vegetation Removal

Project Location City & County: The project is approximately 1.18 miles southwest of the community of Cantua Creek, in Fresno County.

Project Location – Specific: Work will be on the left side (L) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) from mileposts (MP) 130.30L to 131.10L. The work will be in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Work involves removing trees and other vegetation to allow access to the toe road of the Aqueduct. An excavator with a thumb attachment will be used to completely remove all trees and shrubs by grabbing and pulling them out of the ground.

All removed vegetation will be stockpiled onsite and will be burned in compliance with the Fresno County burn permit.

This work is required to give DWR access for inspection and maintenance of the Aqueduct and ROW. State Water Project Contractors will benefit from the 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, Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Trees and other vegetation in degraded mesquite thickets will be removed from the DWR ROW. The trees are not designated as Fresno County landmark trees. Work consists of minor alterations in the condition of land and vegetation, and no healthy, scenic, mature trees will be impacted. Categorical Exemption 15304 Minor Alterations to Land apply.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: DWR

Contact Person: Jake Grace

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 10/18/2022 _____ **Title:** Planner/Scheduler _____

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant