

## 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 Emergency Evacuation Gate Protection Road Grading and Tree and Vegetation Removal

**Project Location City & County:** Approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Huron in Fresno County.

**Project Location – Specific:** The project site is located on the right side (R) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in Reach 7 at milepost (MP) 158.45; the gabion weir and emergency evacuation gates are in the Arroyo Pasajero Westside Detention Basin at Gale Avenue. The site is approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Huron.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Arroyo Pasajero gabion weir basin, the areas between the gabion weir extensions, and an area north of the rubber dam will have vegetation and debris removed and will be graded to maintain flood conveyance capacity. The existing access road on the perimeter of the weir leading to the staff and stream gages will be expanded up to an additional 50 feet during grading. Trees and shrubs between the weir extensions and those within the boundary of the widened road will be removed to prevent vegetation from uprooting during high flows and obstructing the Aqueduct emergency evacuation gates during flooding. Tree logs and debris will be piled beside an existing spoil area located about 1200 feet west of the gabion weir.

Vegetation and tree removal is needed to maintain flood conveyance capacity, to allow a clear view of the stream and staff gages, and to ensure clear access during emergency evacuation gate maintenance and operation. State Water Project Contractors and adjacent landowners 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:** Although, trees and other vegetation will be removed, the trees are not considered scenic and 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 applies.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** DWR

**Contact Person:** Jake Grace

**Telephone:** (209) 827-5190

**Signature:**  **Date:** 10/25/2022 **Title:** Planner/Scheduler

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant