

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
SLFD, 31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95814

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Reach 5 Toe Road Reestablishment and Grading

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). All work will be performed in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) on the left side (L) of the Aqueduct from mileposts (MP) 116.30L to MP 117.49L, MP 119.70L to MP 121.92L, MP 126.65L to MP 128.48L, and MP 129.00L to MP 131.70L. The upstream-most portion of the work area is about 11 miles southwest of the City of Mendota and the downstream-most portion of the work area is about 5.3 miles northeast of the intersection of Interstate 5 and State Route 33.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR's San Luis Field Division (SLFD) will reestablish existing toe roads that have been overgrown by vegetation. To do so, a bulldozer will first dig out vegetation and debris and loosen the soil. The debris is mainly made of old stumps, root balls, and fallen branches. A loader will then pick up the debris and place in piles onsite to be burned on a later day per burn permit requirements. Following that, a grader will pass over the area to smooth the ground and reestablish the toe road.

Illegal dumping often occurs from MP 129.00L to MP 131.70L. In addition to reestablishing to the toe road in this area by removing vegetation, debris, and by loosening the soil, the toe road and adjacent DWR ROW will be graded. This grading will help SLFD better maintain the area. SLFD and State Water Project Contractors 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: 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: To better maintain the Aqueduct and ROW, DWR will reestablish existing toe roads and grade portions of the DWR ROW in Reach 5 of the Aqueduct. Work will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Categorical Exemption 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Jake Grace

Telephone: 209-827-5190

Signature: 

Date: 4/6/2023

Title: Planner Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant