

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Department of Water  
Resources, San Joaquin Field  
Division  
4201 Sabodan Street, Bakersfield, CA 93313

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

Project Title: MM 275.56 Double Overchute Cleaning

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources (DWR), San Joaquin Field Division (SJFD)

Project Location – Specific:

The project site (35°02'12.6"N, 119°02'51.9"W) is located at mile marker 275.56 of the State Water Project California aqueduct. The Wheeler Ridge Spoil Pile site (35°02'17.8"N 119°00'49.9"W) is located at the southwest corner of the Wheeler Ridge Access Road and an unnamed farm road. Wheeler Ridge pumping plant (35°01'54.6"N 119°00'27.5"W) is located at the southern end of Wheeler Ridge Access Road.

Project Location – City: Mettler

Project Location – County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

San Joaquin Field Division plans to remove sediment and debris from the double overchute and flow path at mile marker (MM) 275.56 of the State Water Project (SWP) California aqueduct to prepare for the upcoming El Nino rainstorms. A skid steer, bulldozer, loader, motor grader, and excavator will be used to remove sediment and debris, and to form a bowl in the inlet to capture excess sediment. A dump truck will be used to haul away material approximately 2 miles east of the project site to the Wheeler Ridge pumping plant (WRPP) spoil pile site. At the spoil pile site, the material will be dumped and spread out to prevent piles. Equipment will be stored at the WRPP. All work will take place within the DWR right-of-way. This work is necessary to prevent flooding and damage to the SWP infrastructure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DWR- Operations & Maintenance

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)); 15301 (b)
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project consists of maintenance activities that support the function of the California Aqueduct and water delivery within the State Water Project.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Elizabeth Maldonado Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-858-5662

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: *Elizabeth Maldonado* Date: 07/18/23 Title: Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency    Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_