

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzaga Rd.
Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 151.18R Westlands Water District Water Pipeline Repair

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: MP 151.18 is located on the right side (R) of the California Aqueduct at Westlands Water District's 22R headworks (turnout), 0.64 miles northwest of the intersection of Lassen Ave and the California Aqueduct in Fresno County. The GPS coordinates are: 36.269343, -120.112579.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requested an encroachment permit to excavate and repair a damaged and leaking water pipeline located in the Department of Water Resources' right-of-way. The leak is in a buried 20-foot section of 45-inch reinforced plastic mortar (RPM) water pipeline. Water to the pipeline will be temporarily shut off and excess water from the leaking pipeline will be pumped from the excavated area into the adjacent orchard. WWD will use a backhoe and excavator to locate the leak and excavate an approximately 50-foot long by 30-foot wide and 9-foot deep area (up to approximately 500 cubic yards of soil will be excavated). The excavated soil will be stockpiled next to the excavated area. WWD will then replace the damaged section of pipeline with a new section of RPM pipeline. The area will then be backfilled to the original elevation using the stockpile of excavated soil and will be compacted using the excavator and backhoe. Westlands Water District Contractors will benefit.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources, as Responsible Agency


Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District

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));
 - Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits
 - Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):
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Reasons Why Project is Exempt: WWD requests encroachment permission from DWR to remove and replace a section of water pipeline located in the DWR right-of-way. DWR, as the Responsible Agency, will issue an encroachment permit to WWD. Work will occur in areas with an average slope of less than 20% and no changes in land use or density will occur; Categorical Exemption 15305 (b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) applies to this project.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature:  _____ Date: 8/1/2023 _____

Printed Name: Jake Grace Title: Planner/Scheduler and Utility Craftworker Supervisor, WR

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