

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: CA Dept. of Water Resources
SLFD 31770 Gonzaga Rd
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Check 12 Repair of a Damaged Fiber Optic Line at O'Neill Forebay

Project Location City & County: Merced County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur in the Department of Water Resources' right-of-way at an existing Verizon service line. The work site is located 1.25 miles southeast of California Aqueduct Check Site 12, and 1.9 miles west of the unincorporated town of Santa Nella along the O'Neill Forebay (Latitude/Longitude: 37.09659, -121.05000).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Verizon requests encroachment permission to access an existing service line located in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way in the O'Neill Forebay area. Verizon will excavate a trench that is approximately 600 feet long by 18 inches wide by 4 feet deep to repair or replace a damaged fiber optic line by splicing new fiber optic line into it. The excavated area will be backfilled, compacted, and shaped to the original contours. Verizon and their clients 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: 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work consists of minor alterations to land with an average slope of less than 20 percent. No expansion of existing use will occur, and work will not result in any changes to land use or density. Impacts to sensitive resources will not occur. DWR will issue an Encroachment Permit for this work. Categorical Exemption 15301 and 15305(b) apply.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Jake Grace

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 9/13/2023 _____ **Title:** Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv _____

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant