

Notice of Exemption

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

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

Project Title: California Aqueduct MP 89.66L and MP 89.68L Potholing

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: The work will occur on the left (L) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 89.66 and MP 89.68 within the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way, located approximately 50 feet north of the intersection of Eagle Field Road and the Aqueduct. The work site is approximately 18.75 miles northwest of the City of Firebaugh.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Pacheco Water District requests encroachment permission to pothole in the DWR right-of-way to identify the location and condition of three existing buried irrigation pipelines. Two pipelines are located at MP 89.66L and the third pipeline is located at MP 89.68L; most of the work will occur at MP 89.66L. One type of potholing will require an excavator to dig test holes approximately 72 inches long by 72 inches wide and up to 30 feet deep to locate sections of the pipelines; up to 5 excavator holes will be dug in the DWR right-of-way. The second type of potholing will use a vacuum truck to excavate 8 to 12-inch diameter test holes up to 30 feet deep to locate sections of the pipelines that are under the Aqueduct road and embankment. Up to 15 vacuum holes will be excavated. As each section of pipeline is exposed, photographs will be taken and measurements such as elevation of the pipeline will be recorded. After information is collected from each test hole, it will be backfilled and compacted to the original grade. Test holes in the Aqueduct road will be covered with asphalt. All test holes will be filled once the information is collected; no holes will be left open overnight. Information collected during the potholing will determine whether work on the irrigation pipelines needs to be planned. Pacheco Water District will benefit.

Public Agency Approving Project: DWR, as Responsible Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacheco 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));

X Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations — Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits; 15306 – Information Collection

- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):
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Reasons Why Project is Exempt: Pacheco Water District requests encroachment permission to pothole in the DWR right-of-way. DWR is the Responsible Agency that will issue an encroachment permit to Pacheco Water District. Work consists of minor alterations to land with an average slope of less than 20 percent to collect information on the location and condition of three existing buried irrigation pipelines. If potential damage is identified, further action may need to be planned. Work will not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) and Categorical Exemption 15306 – Information Collection apply. Pacheco Water District will benefit.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature: Cody Nelson Date: 10/19/2023

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190