

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 Reach 4, Reach 5, and Reach 6 Westlands Water District Turnout Erosion Repairs

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur within the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way, on the perimeter of four Westlands Water District (WWD) turnout pads. All work will be performed on the right (R) side of the Aqueduct; the turnouts are in California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) Reach 4 at mileposts (MP) 105.23R and MP 108.46, in Aqueduct Reach 5 at MP 113.77R, and in Aqueduct Reach 6 at MP 149.59R. The northernmost site (MP 105.23R) is located about 2.37 miles southeast of the intersection of North Russell Avenue and the Aqueduct, and the southernmost location (MP 149.59R) is at the intersection of West Stutz Avenue and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: WWD requests encroachment permission to repair eroded areas on the perimeters of existing turnout pads; each turnout pad has at least two eroded areas needing repair. To repair the erosions, WWD will import earthen fill materials to each turnout. All fill materials will be unloaded as needed; however, any excess material that may require storage will be placed inside the fenced areas at the respective turnout. The fill materials will be placed into each erosion to fully backfill it. Once the erosions are backfilled, they will be compacted, and the side slopes of each pad will be shaped to original contours.

At MP 105.23R, there are two erosions in need of repair. The eroded areas are up to 11 feet long by 1 foot wide by 2 feet deep. About 1.41 cubic yards (CY) of material will be imported to this site.

At MP 108.46R, there are four erosions in need of repair. The eroded areas are up to 14 feet long by 8 feet wide by 2 feet deep. About 29 CY of materials will be imported to this site.

At MP 113.77R, there are four erosions in need of repair. The eroded areas are up to 12 feet long by 25 feet wide by 1 foot deep. About 16.75 CY of materials will be imported to this site.

At MP 149.59R, there are two erosions in need of repair. The eroded areas are up to 10 feet long by 15 feet wide by 1 foot deep. About 7.75 CY of materials will be imported to this site.

Erosion repairs are necessary to maintain the integrity of the WWD turnouts which contain existing WWD facilities. WWD will benefit from this project.

Public Agency Approving Project: DWR, 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));

X 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):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: WWD requests encroachment permission to repair erosions on four of its existing turnout pads in the DWR right of way. DWR is the Responsible Agency that will issue an Encroachment Permit to WWD to do this work. Work will occur in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent and work will not result in any changes to land use or density. Categorical Exemption 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits applies.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature: Cody Nelson Date: 11/15/2023

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

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