

## 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:** Department of Water Resources  
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzaga Rd  
Gustine, CA 95322

**Lead Agency:** Department of Water Resources

**Project Title:** Reach 5 PG&E Utility Power Pole Lightning Arrester and Grounding Rod Installation

**Project Location City & County:** Fresno County

**Project Location – Specific:** Work will occur in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Work will occur at an existing PG&E utility power pole (power pole) located at about milepost (MP) 142.60 right (R) of the Aqueduct; all work will occur in the Department of Water Resources' right of way. The work site is about 0.53 miles west of the intersection of the Aqueduct and State Route 145.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** PG&E requested encroachment permission to work on an existing power pole in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way. Work involves replacing a damaged lightning arrester and installing a new grounding rod to an existing power pole. Installation of the lightning arrester and grounding rod will occur concurrently. Prior to working on the power pole, its existing electrical equipment will be deenergized.

Using hand tools, the damaged lightning arrester will be removed from the power pole. The new arrester will then be mounted to the power pole and attached to the electrical equipment. To install the grounding rod, an approximate 1-foot-radius by 7-foot-deep hole will be made at the base of the power pole. Then, the grounding rod will be placed in the hole and connected to the existing electrical equipment on the power pole; the wiring used to connect the grounding rod to the power pole will be fastened to the power pole. Once all connections are checked, the hole will be backfilled and compacted. The final step of this work will be to reenergize the electrical equipment.

Work is necessary to repair damaged utility power pole equipment and to protect them from lightning strikes. PG&E will benefit from this project.

### 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 involves repairing a damaged lightning arrester and installing a new grounding rod to an existing power pole. Work will result in no expansion of existing or former use, will occur in areas with an average slope of less than 20 percent, and will not result in any changes in land use or density. DWR will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) and Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) apply.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Water Resources

**Contact Person:** Cody Nelson

**Telephone:** 209-827-5190

**Signature:** Cody Nelson **Date:** 11/16/2023 **Title:** Planner Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant