

Notice of Exemption

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

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

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 129.88L Westlands Water District Valve Vault Repair

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur in the DWR right-of-way (ROW) at an existing ground valve vault in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The work site is located at milepost (MP) 129.88 on the left (L) side of the Aqueduct and is about one mile southwest of the rural town of Cantua Creek. The latitude/longitude coordinates of the work site are: 36.490040, -120.334585.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to assess potential damage to an existing concrete ground valve vault (vault), soil pipe, and ground valve. Depending on the condition of these components, they may need to be repaired. The vault is an approximately 2-feet long by 2-feet wide by 2-feet deep prefabricated concrete box; the vault is buried and flush with the ground and allows aboveground access to an attached soil pipe, which is used for opening and closing the ground valve. The soil pipe is made of polyvinyl chloride and is approximately 6-inches in diameter and 8-feet long; it is the point of attachment between the vault and the buried ground valve. The ground valve is buried about 6 to 8 feet underground, is attached to existing pipes, and controls water flow.

WWD will assess the condition of the components after they locate them; to locate the components, WWD will excavate an area approximately 15-feet long by 15-feet wide by 8-feet deep. If repairs are necessary, WWD will replace the damaged components with new ones with similar dimensions and materials. Following the repairs, the excavation will be backfilled, compacted, and shaped to the original contours. WWD will benefit from this repair.

Public Agency Approving Project: DWR, as Responsible Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: WWD

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):
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Reasons Why Project is Exempt: WWD requests encroachment permission to assess and repair an existing ground valve vault and components in the DWR ROW. 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: 11/29/2023

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190