

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: California Department of Water Resources
SLFD, 31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 2B Verizon Communications Vault Replacement at Milepost 51.28R

Project Location City & County: Stanislaus County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur on the right side (R) of Reach 2B of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 51.28. Work will occur within the Department of Water Resources right-of-way in an enclosed asphalted area adjacent to the Aqueduct's Check 9. The work site is approximately 570 feet southeast of the intersection of the Aqueduct and Orestimba Road and is in Stanislaus County.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Verizon requests encroachment permission to remove and replace a damaged communications vault (vault) in the Department of Water Resources right-of-way. A saw cutter will cut through the concrete slab covering the vault and the slab will be removed. An approximately 4 feet long by 6 feet wide by 4 feet deep area will be excavated to expose the damaged vault. The damaged vault will then be removed, and a new vault will be installed into the excavation. The new vault will be 3 feet long by 5 feet wide by 3 feet deep and will be similar to the original vault. After the vault is installed, the excavation will be backfilled and compacted, and a new concrete slab will be poured to cover the vault. The old vault and concrete slab will be removed from the site and disposed of at an appropriate location. Verizon 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 consists of removing an existing damaged Verizon vault in the Department of Water Resources right-of-way and replacing it with a new one. Work will occur in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent and no changes in land use or density will occur. The Department of Water Resources 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: California Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: 209-827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 12/15/2023 **Title:** Planner Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant