

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
SLFD, 31770 Gustine Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 132.77 Right, Cerini Avenue Culvert Pipe

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur about 150 feet west of the intersection of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) and West Cerini Avenue on the right side (R) of the Aqueduct near milepost (MP) 132.77. The work site is in Fresno County.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: About 150 feet west of MP 132.77R, an existing culvert pipe crosses under West Cerini Avenue. One end of this pipe is connected to a sluice gate on the southern side of West Cerini Avenue, and the other end is in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW), on the north side of West Cerini Avenue. Since the portion of the pipe in the DWR ROW is buried and the exact location and condition of the pipe is unknown, San Luis Field Division (SLFD) needs to make exploratory excavations to locate this buried end of the culvert pipe. If the end of the pipe can be located, enough soil will be removed to expose the end of it, returning the pipe and surrounding slope back to design specifications. The excavations made to locate the pipe will be backfilled and compacted. This project will benefit SLFD and the adjacent landowner.

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 15304(f) (Minor Alterations to Land – Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored) apply.
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work involves locating the buried end of an existing culvert pipe. There will be no expansion of existing or former use of this pipe, no healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed, and the area will be backfilled and compacted to design specifications. Categorical Exemptions 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15304(f)(Minor Alterations to Land – Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored) apply.

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

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: 209-827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 1/11/2024 **Title:** Planner Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant