

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: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division
31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Dos Amigo Pumping Plant Siphon House Trench and Drain Install

Project Location City & County: Merced County

Project Location – Specific: Work will be performed at the siphon house located immediately south of the California State Water Project's Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, approximately 9 miles south of the City of Los Banos.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Because the existing drain pipes at the siphon house are causing ongoing erosion, the Department of Water Resources' San Luis Field Division will connect six 4-inch diameter corrugated plastic drain lines to the existing drain pipes. Before installing the drain lines, brush and weeds will be removed and six trenches, up to 1.5 feet wide and up to 2 feet deep, will be dug. Four of the trenches will be on the north side of the siphon house, and two will be on the south side.

After the brush and weeds are cleared, the four drain lines will require excavation of a small, approximately 2-foot square and 2-foot deep basin about 200 feet north of the siphon house. The basin will be lined with 4- to 12-inch diameter rock. Once the basin is constructed, the four drain lines will be installed in the trenches and will be buried. Flows from the four drain lines will discharge into the basin; a 10-inch diameter pipe will be connected to the downstream side of the basin allowing the drain flows to discharge into an existing drainage ditch located along Pole Line Road. Four to 12-inch diameter rock may be placed in the ditch at the point where the 10-inch pipe flows into it.

The remaining two lines connected on the south side of the siphon house will be placed in the trenches and buried. These lines will discharge approximately 140 feet south of the siphon house where existing outlets are located.

All trenched areas will be backfilled and compacted to the original elevation and contours. Installation of these drainage lines will prevent erosion around the siphon house. The State Water Project will benefit.

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 (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work consists of trenching and backfilling to connect new drain lines to existing ones to prevent erosion. No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed and there will be no expansion of existing or former use of the siphon house. Categorical Exemptions 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) apply.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 1/19/2024 **Title:** Planner/Scheduler/ UC Supervisor

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant