

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: California Aqueduct Reach 2B, 3, and 5 PG&E Power Pole Replacement

Project Location City & County: Merced and Fresno Counties

Project Location – Specific: All work sites are in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way. The Reach 2B site is on the left side (L) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at MP 66.55 about 0.45 miles south of the intersection of the Aqueduct and McCabe Road. The Reach 3 site is at milepost MP 75.65L, about 140 feet east of the intersection of the Aqueduct and Volta Road. The Reach 5 site is on the right side (R) of the Aqueduct at MP 119.60, about 2 miles south of the intersection of the Aqueduct and Manning Avenue.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

During recent storm events, PG&E power poles fell in the DWR right of way. One pole will be replaced at MP 66.55L, two poles will be replaced at 75.65L, and at least one will be replaced at MP 119.60R. At each site, remnants of broken or fallen poles will be removed, then an approximately 6-foot-deep by 18-inch-wide hole will be excavated at the location where each existing pole had been standing. A new pole will then be installed in the hole, in alignment with the power line. If the existing power line cables are not damaged, they will be connected to the new poles; if they are damaged, new cable will be spliced into the line and attached to the new poles. The excavated area around the new poles will be backfilled and compacted. Vehicles and equipment will access the site from existing roads, when possible, and will stage on existing road or road shoulders. PG&E will benefit from this work.

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:
- Statutory Exemptions: 15269(b) (Emergency Projects)

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Recent storm events caused existing PG&E power poles to fall in the DWR right of way. PG&E must make repairs to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Statutory Exemption 15269 (b) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 2/8/2024 **Title:** Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant