

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Department of Water  
Resources, San Joaquin Field  
Division  
4201 Sabodan Street, Bakersfield, CA 93313

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

Project Title: Reestablish Drainage West Side DEPP Sump

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin Field Division

Project Location – Specific:

The Devil's Den Pumping Plant (DEPP) sump is located at 35°42'34.5"N 120°00'35.4"W. DEPP is located at 35°42'43.3"N 120°00'41.3"W. The DEPP spoil pile site is located at 35°42'45.1"N 120°00'31.9"W.

Project Location – City: Lost Hills

Project Location – County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

San Joaquin field division plans to reestablish a drainage ditch, reestablish a berm, remove sediment from a sump, and regrade and add gravel to a road that was washed out.

To reestablish the drainage ditch, a one-foot-deep by 230-foot-long v-ditch along the Berrenda Mesa fence line would be dug out using either a grader or backhoe. Sediment would be loaded onto a dump truck and taken to the Devil's Den Pumping Plant (DEPP) spoil pile site.

To reestablish the berm, an excavator and bulldozer would be used to scrape sediment along the sides of the DEPP sump, and then pile the sediment between the sump's southwest side and the graveled road. The berm would be around 2 feet high and 180 feet long. If more dirt is needed, dirt from the DEPP spoil pile site would be loaded onto a truck and transported to the site.

To remove sediment from the sump, the bulldozer and excavator would be used again to clean up the upper shelf of the sump. Water in the lower portion of the sump would be pumped out and into the California aqueduct. The excavator would then be used to remove excess sediment from the lower portion.

Lastly, the road between the v-ditch and berm would be regraded with a grader and several inches of gravel would be brought in via a dump truck. The gravel would be spread out and compacted into the road.

A service truck would be used to refuel equipment when needed. Equipment staging would take place at DEPP. All work would take place within the DWR right of way. This work is necessary to maintain the sump and to avoid runoff sediment from entering the sump. The work is estimated to take 3-4 weeks to complete. Work is planned for March. However, due to a forecasted wet spring, the work may be postponed until April or May.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DWR- Operations & Maintenance

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)); 15301 (b)
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project consists of maintenance activities that support the function of the California Aqueduct and water delivery within the State Water Project.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Elizabeth Maldonado Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-858-5662

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: *Elizabeth Maldonado* Date: 02/22/24 Title: Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_