

## 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 4 MP 100.55R to MP 102.64R Vegetation Removal

**Project Location City & County:** Fresno County

**Project Location – Specific:** Work will occur in Reach 4 of the California Aqueduct at milepost (MP) 100.55 right (R) to MP 102.64R. MP 100.55R, the northernmost part of the worksite, is located at the intersection of the Aqueduct and West Shields Avenue. MP 102.64R, the southernmost part of the worksite, is located at the intersection of the Aqueduct and North Russel Avenue. The City of Mendota is approximately 15 miles east of MP 102.64.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Under the supervision of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) San Luis Field Division, a California Conservation Corps crew will remove vegetation and trash from the toe roads and v-ditches in the DWR right-of-way. Vegetation within 3 to 5 feet of the toe roads will be removed using chainsaws and other hand tools. Removed woody vegetation will be chipped and spread onsite. Trash will be collected and disposed of at an appropriate offsite location. Adjacent landowners and 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 removing vegetation and trash from DWR toe roads and v-ditches. No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed and there will be no expansion of existing or former use of the toe roads and v-ditches. 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:** 3/1/2024 **Title:** Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant