

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
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzaga Rd
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 7 PG&E Power Pole Replacement in Reach 7

Project Location City & County: Kings County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur in Reach 7 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Work will occur at an existing PG&E utility power pole located near Aqueduct milepost (MP) 166.68 left (L); all work will occur in the Department of Water Resources' right of way. The worksite is about 2.1 miles southeast of the intersection of the Aqueduct and Avenal Cutoff Road.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: PG&E requests encroachment permission to replace an existing power pole and its anchor. Prior to replacing the power pole, existing electrical equipment will be deenergized. Temporary cables will be connected to electrical equipment located on two existing power poles located east and south of the pole that will be replaced; both these poles are within 185 feet of the pole replacement site. The temporary cables will be attached to ¾ inch grounding rods that will be hammered 12 inches into the ground at the base of the two poles. The existing power lines will be disconnected, the guy wire will be detached from the pole that needs to be replaced, and the existing anchor that the guy wire fastens to will be removed. Then, the pole will be removed.

An approximately 1-foot-wide by 7.5-foot-deep hole will be excavated at the location where the existing pole had been standing. A new pole will be installed in the hole. Once all connections are checked, the excavated area around the new pole will be backfilled and compacted and a new anchor will be driven into the ground. The guy wire will be attached to the new anchor and will be clamped to the top of the new pole. Afterward, the power lines that had been disconnected will be connected to the new pole. Finally, the temporary cables and ground rods will be removed, and the electrical equipment will be reenergized.

Work is necessary to maintain services essential to public health, safety, or welfare. PG&E will benefit from this project.

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 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work involves replacing an existing power pole and its anchor. Work will result in no expansion of existing or former use, will occur in areas with an average slope of less than 20 percent, and will not result in any changes in land use or density. DWR will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) and Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) 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