

## 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:** California Department of Water Resources  
31770 Gonzaga Road  
Gustine, CA 95322

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Water Resources

**Project Title:** California Aqueduct Milepost 57.08L PG&E Utility Pole Reinforcement

**Project Location City & County:** Stanislaus County

**Project Location – Specific:** The work site is in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way, on the left side (L) of the California Aqueduct at milepost 57.08. The work site is about 0.68 miles southwest of the intersection of Interstate 5 and State Route 140 in Stanislaus County.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** PG&E has requested permission to reinforce an existing wood utility pole in the DWR right of way. Reinforcement involves detaching all components currently attached to the pole, then an approximate 5.5-foot-deep excavation will be made in a 12-inch radius around the pole. A 13-foot steel truss will be inserted into the excavated area and set against the pole; the truss will be pneumatically driven further into the ground until the base of the truss is about 5.5 feet below ground level. Steel banding will be used to attach the truss to the pole. The components that were detached from the pole will be reattached once the truss is installed. The excavated area will be backfilled and compacted. This work is necessary to maintain the utility pole's structural integrity. 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: 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of minor encroachment permits) apply.
- Statutory Exemptions:

**Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:** PG&E requested permission to reinforce an existing utility pole located in the Department of Water Resources right of way. This work will not expand existing or former use of the pole. Work will occur in areas with an average slope of less than 20 percent, and work will not result in any changes in land use. DWR will issue an encroachment permit for completion of 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:** 3/21/2024 **Title:** Planner Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant