

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzago Rd.
Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 118.44R Westlands Water District Valve and Water Line Replacement

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur at an existing Westlands Water District (WWD) turnout in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct. The turnout is in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way at milepost (MP) 118.44 on the right (R) side of the Aqueduct, about four miles north of the rural town of Panoche Junction. The latitude/longitude coordinates of the work site are: 36.589733, -120.487411.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

WWD has requested permission to replace an existing underground valve and install a new underground bypass waterline located at its turnout in the DWR right of way. A 54 foot long, by 3 foot wide, by 4 foot deep trench will be excavated to locate an existing, deteriorated waterline. The deteriorated line will be disconnected and left in place. The new, ductile iron line will be 12 inches in diameter and approximately 50 feet long and will be installed above the old line, but in the same alignment as the old line. It will connect to the existing sump, but at a higher elevation than the old line. A 12 foot long, by 12 foot wide, by 8 foot deep area will be excavated to locate, remove, and replace an existing valve. The new valve will be 12 inches in diameter, will be made of epoxy coated iron, and will become the shutoff for the new water line. After the work is complete, the excavated areas will be backfilled and compacted to the original grade. The project is necessary to continue water deliveries, WWD and its Contractors will benefit.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources, as Responsible Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District

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));
- Categorical Exemption: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: WWD requests permission to replace an existing valve and water line located at a WWD turnout in the DWR right of way. DWR, as the Responsible Agency, will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Work will take place in areas with an average slope of less than 20 percent and will not result in any changes in land use or density; Categorical Exemption 15305 (b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Issuance of minor encroachment permits) applies.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature: Cody Nelson Date: 3/22/2024

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190