

Notice of Exemption

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

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

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 158.47R Westlands Water District Valve Replacement

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur at an existing Westlands Water District (WWD) turnout in Reach 7 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The turnout is in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way at milepost (MP) 158.47 on the right (R) side of the Aqueduct, about 186 feet southwest of the intersection of West Gale Avenue and the Aqueduct. The worksite is 3.3 miles southeast of the city of Huron.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

WWD has requested permission to replace an existing underground valve located at its turnout in the DWR right-of-way. A 10 foot long, by 14 foot wide, by 6 foot deep trench will be excavated to expose an existing damaged 12-inch diameter cast steel valve (damaged valve). The damaged valve will be unbolted from the existing main waterline and will be replaced with a new valve made of similar dimensions and materials. After the work is complete, the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted to the original grade. The project is necessary to continue water deliveries; WWD and its Contractors will benefit from the work.

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. State type and section number: 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 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: 4/22/2024

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190