

Notice of Exemption

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

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

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 114.81L Westlands Water District Soil Pipe Replacement

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur on the left side (L) of California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) Reach 5. Work will be in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) at milepost (MP) 114.81L. The work site is about 2.81 miles southeast of the intersection of West Panoche Road and the Aqueduct, in Fresno County.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to replace an existing, broken, underground soil pipe at MP 114.81L. An approximately 8-foot-long by 4-foot-wide by 8-foot-deep excavation will be made to uncover the broken pipe, about 9.5 cubic yards of soil will be excavated. Once the pipe is exposed, an approximately 6-foot-long damaged segment of the pipe will be removed and replaced with a new segment made of similar materials. WWD will dispose of the removed pipe segment offsite. When the new segment of pipe is installed, a 12-inch by 12-inch concrete road box will be poured around the pipe and made flush with the ground; the road box will allow easier aboveground access to the pipe. Once the road box is finished, the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted. Work is necessary to maintain existing WWD infrastructure; WWD will benefit from this project.

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 work in the DWR ROW to replace an existing soil pipe and will install a new concrete road box. DWR, as 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: 5/30/2024

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190