

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 Check 18 Right Bank Security V-Ditch

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) on the right side (R) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) from milepost (MP) 143.16R to MP 143.80R. The northernmost end of the worksite (MP 143.16R) is about 0.04 miles southeast of the intersection of the Aqueduct and State Route 145. The southernmost worksite (MP 143.80R) is about 0.45 miles northwest of the intersection of South El Dorado Avenue and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: To provide additional security and to prevent unauthorized vehicles, other trespassing, and reoccurring vandalism near Check 18, DWR's San Luis Field Division will create an approximately 0.64-mile V-ditch running adjacent to and parallel with the DWR property line. The V-ditch will begin at approximately MP 143.16R and continue to approximately MP 143.80R, where it will intersect an existing fence. The V-ditch will be constructed by using a water truck to control dust by spraying the area, then a grader with an angled blade will make several passes to form an approximately three feet deep and up to 10 feet wide V-shaped ditch. The excavated soil will remain on the sides of the V-ditch as a berm to further deter vehicle entry. The State Water Project 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: 15304 — Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: A V-ditch will be graded along the DWR property boundary near the existing Aqueduct Check 18 to prevent trespassing and vandalism. Work consists of minor alterations in the condition of land in an area with less than 10 percent slope and will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Categorical Exemption 15304(a) — Minor Alterations to Land applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: 209-827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 6/28/2024 **Title:** Planner Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant