

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 141.56R Westlands Water District Pipeline Repair

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur on the right side (R) of Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Work will be in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) at milepost (MP) 141.56R. The work site is approximately 1.58 miles northwest of the intersection of State Route 145 and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to replace a broken, underground water pipeline (pipe), an MNI water use meter, and a valve at MP 141.56R. First, WWD will use a t-wrench to access a ground valve connected to the broken pipe to shut off the water supply so repairs can be made. Then, an approximately 4-foot-long by 4-foot-wide by 5-foot-deep excavation will be made to remove a concrete vault and uncover the broken equipment. Once the pipe is exposed, the 1-foot-long damaged pipe segment will be replaced with a new segment and connected to the existing pipe using a coupler, the broken meter will be removed and replaced with a new meter, and the broken valve will be removed and replaced with a new valve. Each new component will be made of similar materials to the original. WWD will dispose of the removed pipe segment, meter, and valve offsite. Once the repairs are complete, the concrete vault will be placed back into its original position, the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted, and the water supply will be restored. Work is necessary to maintain the existing WWD water supply. 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 repair an existing water pipeline and associated equipment. 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: 7/19/2024

Printed Name: Cody Nelson Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor Phone: (209) 827-5190