

## 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

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**Project Title:** California Aqueduct Mileposts 123.09L and 123.59L Westlands Water District Soil Pipe and Valve Vault Installation

**Project Location City and County:** Fresno County

**Project Location, Specific:** Work will occur in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The two Westlands Water District (WWD) work sites are located in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way on the left side (L) of the Aqueduct at milepost (MP) 123.09 and MP 123.59. The northernmost site, MP 123.09L, is approximately 1.11 miles southeast of the intersection of the Aqueduct and S. San Diego Avenue, and the southernmost site, MP 123.59L, is approximately 1.70 miles northwest of the intersection of the Aqueduct and S. Derrick Avenue. The latitude/longitude coordinates of MP 123.09L are: 36.549970, -120.425096 and at MP 123.59L are: 36.548689, -120.415969.

### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

WWD has requested encroachment permission to locate an existing underground valve and install a soil pipe and a concrete ground valve vault (vault) in the DWR right-of-way at MP 123.09L and MP 123.59L. The following work will occur at each location:

WWD will excavate an area approximately 15 feet long by 15 feet wide by 8 feet deep to locate the valve. Once the valve is located, a 10-foot long by 10-foot wide shoring box will be placed temporarily around the valve to keep the excavation from collapsing. A 6-inch diameter by 8-foot long soil pipe made of polyvinyl chloride will be attached to the top of the valve. The area surrounding the soil pipe will be partially backfilled to stabilize it. A concrete valve vault that is approximately 14 inches in diameter and 18 inches deep will be placed around the top 18 inches of soil pipe. The vault and the soil pipe will allow use of a wrench to open and close the valve. When installation of the soil pipe and vault is complete, the shoring box will be removed. The vault will be flush with the ground and the remaining excavated area will be backfilled and compacted to the original grade. 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):
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**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** WWD requests encroachment permission to locate an existing underground valve and install a soil pipe and a valve vault at MP 123.09L and MP 123.59L. 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.

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**Responsible Agency Contact:**

Signature: Cody Nelson Date: 8/23/2024

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