

## 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 Gonzaga Rd.  
Gustine, CA 95322

---

**Project Title:** California Aqueduct Milepost 153.30 Right, Westlands Water District Gate Valve Replacement

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

**Project Location, Specific:** Work will occur at Westlands Water District (WWD) conveyance turnout at the intersection of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Arroyo Pasajero Training Dike and South Trinity Avenue. Work will occur within the DWR right of way, and it is about 1.11 miles southwest of the intersection of State Route 198 and State Route 269. Work will occur at the coordinates: (36.248118, -120.121564).

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** WWD requests encroachment permission to replace a broken 12-inch gate valve in the DWR right of way. To perform the work, an approximate 10 foot wide by 10 foot long by 10 feet deep excavation will be made around the existing water pipe that houses the broken valve. A 10-foot by 10-foot shoring box will then be temporarily installed into the excavation to prevent the excavation from collapsing. If there is not enough space around the water pipe to allow installation of the shoring box, a 15-foot radius excavation around the piping will be made instead. This excavation will be sloped inward towards the valve until it reaches a depth of about 10 feet and would not require shoring because the slope will prevent the excavation from collapsing on workers. Once the broken 12-inch gate valve is uncovered, it will be removed and replaced with one of similar specifications. Following the replacement, the new valve will be tested, the shoring box will be removed, and the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted to its original condition. Replacing the valve will ensure that WWD can continue to supply water to their customers; WWD and local farmers will benefit from this 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:** 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 encroachment permission to replace an existing gate 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: 8/29/2024

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