

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 149.12L Westlands Water District Leak Repair

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur on the left side (L) of Reach 6 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Work will be in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) at milepost (MP) 149.12L. The work site is approximately 2.57 miles northwest of the intersection of State Route 269 and the Aqueduct. Work will occur at the coordinates: (36.291020, -120.135620).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to locate and repair a leak in their water delivery system located within their turnout facility in the DWR right of way at Aqueduct MP 149.12L. WWD will excavate an area approximately 30 feet wide by 20 feet long by 6 feet deep (approximately 133 cubic yards) to inspect a portion of its water delivery system for a leak. Temporary shoring will be installed in the excavation to assure worker safety. Once the leak is found, WWD will determine whether a damaged valve or fractured pipe is causing the leak. If a damaged valve is the cause, it will be removed and replaced with one made of similar dimensions and materials. If a pipe is leaking, it will be repaired by either installing a rubber insulated stainless steel clamp on the outside of the pipe or by accessing the inside of the pipe and bonding a rubber seal to the fractured area. Once the repair is complete, the shoring will be removed, and the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted. Vehicles and equipment will be staged on established Aqueduct roads and road shoulders or inside the turnout facility. Work is necessary to maintain the existing WWD water supply; WWD 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 permission to locate and repair a leak in their existing water delivery system located in the DWR ROW. As the Responsible Agency, DWR will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Work will be 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: 9/25/2024

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190