

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
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Relocation of a Water Pipeline and Construction of a Water Fill Station Pad

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location—Specific: Work involves relocating a temporary water pipeline currently located in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way to the area beginning at the intersection of S. Siskiyou and W. Marmon Avenues (36.226279°, -120.085883°) and extending about 0.41 miles west of the intersection and angling northwest for about 0.61 miles to the southern bank of the Arroyo Pasajero channel (36.232942°, -120.095008°), which is also in the DWR right of way. The water fill station pad will be adjacent to the end of the pipeline on the southern bank of the AP channel. The overall worksite is approximately 1.1 miles west of the California Aqueduct, 1.7 miles north of Huron, and 1.5 miles south of the intersection of State Route (SR) 198 and SR 269.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: San Luis Field Division (SLFD) has been using a temporary, above ground 12-inch diameter HDPE pipeline as a water line during maintenance projects. To protect the water line from vandalism and to increase efficient use of the water supply, SLFD will convert the temporary line into a permanent one by moving the line to the area between the intersection of S. Siskiyou and W. Marmon Avenues and the southern bank of the Arroyo Pasajero channel, burying the water line, and constructing a water fill station pad. The relocated water line will connect the existing Westlands Water District water supply at the intersection of S. Siskiyou and W. Marmon Avenues to the new water fill station pad.

At the beginning of the work, all equipment and materials will be staged in designated areas. SLFD will use a grader to cut an approximately 20-foot-wide access road adjacent to the new water line alignment and will also grade the area where the water line will be installed; existing shrubs and trees will be avoided. An excavator will be used to dig an approximately 0.75 mile long trench to accommodate the waterline; approximately 1,760 cubic yards of material will be excavated.

Once the trench is complete, sections of the temporary line will be taken apart at the flanged fitting points and the sections will be positioned next to the trench. When all the sections have been relocated, 750-foot lengths will be fusion welded together and placed in the trench. Each of the open, unwelded ends of the water line will be covered with plywood until they are welded together. After all the sections have been welded, the last two open ends of the waterline will be temporarily blocked with high-density plastic. Once all sections of the water line have been welded and placed in the trench, the water line will be connected to the existing Westlands Water District water supply at the intersection of S. Siskiyou and W. Marmon Avenues. The end of the water line by the Arroyo Pasajero channel will be capped until it needs to be connected to a portable water tank during future maintenance projects. After the water line construction is complete, tracer wire and burial tape will be placed in the trench with the water line so the buried line can be located in the future. The trench will be backfilled and compacted; any excavated material not used to backfill the line will be graded into the access

road adjacent to the water line. Steel traffic bollards will be installed at the ends of the water line to protect them from damage.

Material from the excavated trench not needed for backfill will be used to construct a pad for a portable water tower tank. The pad will be approximately 40 feet long by 10 feet wide by 4 feet high and will be made of compacted dirt topped by a layer of crushed rock. When needed for future maintenance projects, the permanent water pipeline will be connected to the portable water tower tank.

Relocating and burying the water line will prevent damage to the pipeline; making the waterline permanent will enable more efficient use of the line. The State Water Project will benefit from this work.

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: Work consists of relocating a temporary water pipeline and making it a permanent pipeline by grading a new access road, digging a trench and burying the water pipeline, and constructing a water fill station pad. The work will involve only minor alterations to the condition of the land and vegetation and does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees — Categorical Exemption 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: DWR

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 10/18/2024 **Title:** Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv.

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant