

## Notice of Exemption

**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

---

**Project Title:** California Aqueduct Milepost 108.39L, Transformer Relocation

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

**Project Location, Specific:** Work will occur at an existing Westlands Water District (WWD) turnout in Reach 4 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The turnout is on the left side (L) of the Aqueduct in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way at milepost (MP) 108.39, about 0.37 miles northwest of the Aqueduct and South Fairfax Avenue intersection (coordinates: 36.712156, -120.573385).

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** An existing wooden pedestal in the DWR right of way that holds an overhead transformer is showing signs of failure and needs to be removed. WWD requests encroachment permission from DWR to have the transformer and pedestal removed and to then install a new ground-level transformer. To perform the work, the existing transformer will be de-energized by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), taken offsite, and demolished. Once the transformer is safely removed from the turnout, WWD contractors will remove the wooden pedestal and dispose of it offsite. Then, they will excavate an area of about 15 feet long by 15 feet wide by 2 feet deep; about 17 cubic yards of material will be removed. The excavated soil and up to 3 cubic yards of imported gravel will be placed in the bottom of the excavation and will be leveled so a 6 feet long by 5 feet wide by 4 inches high concrete pad can be placed in the excavation. The new transformer will be placed on top of the concrete pad. PG&E will connect the transformer to the existing electrical equipment and energize it. Work is necessary to ensure safe, reliable electrical service to WWD. WWD and its Contractors will benefit.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** DWR, as Responsible Agency

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** WWD

**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 have an existing overhead transformer and damaged pedestal removed and a new ground-level transformer installed at a WWD turnout in the DWR right of way. As the Responsible Agency, DWR will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Work will occur 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: 10/29/2024

Printed Name: Cody Nelson

Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor

Phone: (209) 827-5190