

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: California Aqueduct Milepost 118.20L Westlands Water District Concrete Vault Replacement

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Work will be in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) on the left side (L) of the Aqueduct at milepost (MP) 118.20. The work site is about 0.73 miles south of the intersection of Manning Avenue and the Aqueduct, in Fresno County. The latitude/longitude coordinates of the work site are: 36.593349, -120.486426.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to replace an existing, damaged, concrete vault at MP 118.20L. To make the repairs, an approximately 30-foot-long by 30-foot-wide by 8-foot-deep excavation will be made to uncover the concrete vault. The concrete vault will be removed and replaced with a new concrete vault of similar dimensions. WWD will dispose of the removed concrete vault offsite. When the new vault is installed, the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted. Work is necessary to maintain existing WWD infrastructure; WWD will benefit from this project.

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: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: WWD requests permission to work in the DWR ROW to replace an existing concrete vault. DWR, as 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.

Contact Person: Mark McDaniel

Telephone: (209) 827-5465

Signed by Lead Agency

Name: Mark McDaniel **Signature:** Mark McDaniel **Date:** 1/27/2025