

## 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 122.55 L&R Underwater Grouting Repair

**Project Location City & County:** Fresno County

**Project Location – Specific:** Work will occur at two sites in Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The sites are on the left (L) and right sides (R) of the Aqueduct in the DWR right of way (ROW). The sites are at Aqueduct mileposts (MP) 122.55L and MP 122.55R; they are about 2.76 miles northwest of the intersection of S Derrick Avenue and the Aqueduct.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** DWR Division of Engineering (DOE) will be conducting underwater grouting to seal leaks in the Aqueduct concrete liner panels at MP 122.55L and potentially MP 122.55R. A previous underwater dive inspection located two damaged sections of the liner panels at MP 122.55L. The damaged sections have resulted in Aqueduct leaks causing two boils to form at MP 122.55L, one boil is within adjacent private farmland and the other is at the Aqueduct toe road. Sandbag rings, pallets, and PVC pipes were placed around the identified boils. The liner panels at MP 122.55R may be re-inspected for damaged areas; the damaged areas will be grouted to seal leaks.

The work areas will be about 200 feet long; 100 feet upstream and 100 feet downstream of the grouting locations at MP 122.55L and MP 122.55R. All equipment used in the grouting process and personnel vehicles will be staged on the Aqueduct's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) road with traffic blocked during work hours. To perform the underwater grouting, holes will be drilled into the concrete liner and filled with grout. The quantity of holes required to seal the leaks will be determined in the field during the grouting. While grouting occurs, DOE staff will monitor the boil and the inside and outside of the sandbag rings for any escaping grout. At each work area a 10-yard-clean-out bin will be placed on the Aqueduct road to deposit any excess grout mixture, any grout that may escape during the repair, and all materials released into the boil area. Once the repairs are completed, all supplies used to monitor the boils will be removed and disposed of offsite, and the contents of the clean-out bin will be taken to the appropriate facility. The areas where supplies, equipment, and boils were located will be graded and compacted to match original conditions.

Repairs are necessary to prevent water from seeping out of the Aqueduct. 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: 15301 (Existing Facilities)

Statutory Exemptions:

**Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:** Work involves underwater grouting to seal leaks at existing Aqueduct concrete liner panels. There will be no expansion of existing or former use of the Aqueduct. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) applies.

**Contact Person:** Mark McDaniel

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Signed by Lead Agency

**Name:** Mark McDaniel

**Signature:** Mark McDaniel

**Date:** 2/5/2025