

## Notice of Exemption

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Department of Water Resources  
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzaga Rd.  
Gustine, CA 95322

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**Project Title:** California Aqueduct Milepost 58.25 Del Puerto Water District Pipeline Repair

**Project Location City and County:** Merced County

**Project Location, Specific:** The work site is in the Department of Water Resources right of way at California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) milepost (MP) 58.25. Work will occur on both the right and left side of the Aqueduct. The work site is about 1.51 miles south, southwest of the intersection of State Route 140 and Interstate 5.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Del Puerto Water District requests encroachment permission to repair and replace sections of their steel water pipeline located at Aqueduct MP 58.25.

On the left side of the Aqueduct, the pipeline has a damaged joint located above the Aqueduct concrete liner. To make the repair, an up to 8-foot-wide by 8-foot-long portion of the asphalt Aqueduct road will be removed and will be disposed of at an appropriate offsite location. A 5-foot deep area beneath the removed asphalt will be excavated around the broken joint. Approximately 12 cubic yards of material will be excavated and stockpiled onsite. After the area is excavated, a mechanical clamp around the joint will be installed; however, if the clamp is not sufficient to make the repair, the damaged section of pipe will be removed and a new section of pipe, with the same dimensions and made of similar material, will be installed. Once the joint is repaired, it will be encased in concrete to prevent further movement of the joint. The excavated, stockpiled material will be used to backfill and compact the area around the concrete. The Aqueduct road will be restored by laying a 4-inch-thick layer of new hot mix asphalt on the road.

A second damaged section of the pipeline is suspended above the Aqueduct. To repair this section, a crane will be positioned on the right side of the Aqueduct and will be used to help remove the damaged pipe. After the damaged section is removed, a new section of pipeline with the same dimensions and made of similar material, will be lifted by the crane and installed. The repairs are necessary to continue water deliveries. Del Puerto Water District will benefit.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Water Resources, as Responsible Agency

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Del Puerto Water District

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**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:** Del Puerto Water District requests encroachment permission to repair an existing pipeline in the Department of Water Resources right of way in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent. There will be no changes in land use or density. Department of Water Resources, as a Responsible Agency, will issue an encroachment permit. Categorical Exemption 15305 (b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Issuance of minor encroachment permits) applies.

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**Responsible Agency Contact:**

Signature: Mark McDaniel Date: 4/25/2025

Printed Name: Mark McDaniel      Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor      Phone: (209) 827-5190