

2019048080

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: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770
Gonzaga Rd. CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 7 Vegetation Removal and Re-establishment of Toe Roads

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: The work sites are located on the right side (R) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) from milepost (MP) 158.50R to MP 161.57R and on the left side (L) of the Aqueduct at MP 158.50L to MP 159.50L; MP 161.65L to MP 162.05L; MP 162.08L to MP 162.60L; MP 162.64L to MP 163.65L; MP 163.70L to MP 164.40L; and MP 168.05L to MP 168.50L. The sites are approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Huron.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR's San Luis Field Division (SLFD) will employ the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to remove woody brush and vegetation growing in the DWR right-of-way (ROW) at the locations listed above. The CCC will use chains saws and other hand tools. Cut vegetation will be stacked so it can be burned later. The location of the burn sites will be determined by Environmental Scientist (ES) issuing this clearance and SLFD staff. A loader or backhoe will be used to pile up the removed vegetation; a tractor with a mower attachment will be used to mow areas, as needed. The existing maintenance roads on the right side are heavily degraded; a grader will be used to re-establish the toe roads in the ROW to make it easier to inspect the levees. The roads will be about 15 feet wide and will have shoulders, making the total graded width about 20 feet. Existing berms in the project area will be used to fill portions of the road, if needed. The State Water Project Contractors will benefit.

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:

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Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work involves vegetation removal, mowing, and the re-establishment of existing toe roads in the DWR ROW. The work will not expand the roads beyond the original design, nor will it increase the frequency of use. Categorical exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Brandon Silva

Telephone: (209) 827-5132

Signature: BS **Date:** 4-4-19 **Title:** vw Supervisor / P.S.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 04 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE