

2019100126

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzago Rd.
Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 89.66L Panoche Water District Valve Replacement

Project Location City and County: Merced County

Project Location, Specific: The project is located on the left side (L) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at MP 89.66, approximately 40 feet north of the intersection of Eagle Field Road and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Panoche Water District (PWD) requests permission to encroach on the DWR right-of-way (ROW) to remove and replace two valves. PWD will remove the existing concrete-lined bathtub and the associated canal gates and will excavate about 1,100 cubic yards from an approximately 50-foot wide by 50-foot long by 12-foot deep area to remove two existing 30-inch valves located near the bathtub and replacing them with two new 30-inch butterfly valves and extension stems. Once the valves are replaced, the irrigation pipes that entered and exited the bathtub will be connected to new steel pipe fittings and a buried valve installation so the bathtub and gates can be eliminated. However, if underground conditions don't allow for installation of the pipe fittings, a new bathtub will be constructed in a 6 foot by 5 foot by 4 foot deep area that will be filled with concrete, and the canal gates will be reinstalled. Once the work is complete, the area will be backfilled and contoured to the surrounding grade. PWD benefits.

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


Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Panoche Water District

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. State type and section number: 15305 (b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: PWD requests encroachment permission to replace existing valves in DWR's ROW. DWR is the Responsible Agency issuing an encroachment permit to PWD. Work consists of minor alterations to land with an average slope of less than 20 percent. Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations of Land Use Limitations--Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) applies. PWD is responsible for any additional CEQA and will obtain any necessary permits.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature:  Date: 10/4/19

Printed Name: Frank Ruiz Title: ACW Supervisor / P.S. Office

Phone: (209) 827-5134

OCT 04 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE