

## 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  
1416 9th Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Water Resources

**Project Title:** San Luis Field Division Irrigation Pipeline Crossing Inspections and Repair

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

**Project Location – Specific:** All work sites are on both sides of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at these 19 mileposts (MP): MP 72.95, MP 81.1, MP 91.35, MP 91.36, MP 92.72, MP 102.88, MP 107.15, MP 128.89, MP 129.63, MP 135.98, MP 137.32, MP 137.83, MP 138.24, MP 140.50, MP 141.55, MP 161.62, MP 162.08, MP 163.18, and MP 163.67.

The northernmost location is MP 72.95, which is about 5.8 miles west of the City of Los Banos in western Merced County. The southernmost location is MP 163.67, which is about 6 miles southeast of the City of Huron in western Fresno County.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** DWR's contractors will be conducting ground penetrating radar surveys to locate 19 irrigation pipelines associated with the Aqueduct, which will allow cleaning and Remote Video Inspection (RVI) to be conducted on these pipelines. The work area will be about 300 foot on both sides of each milepost.

The two pipelines located at MP 163.18 and MP 137.32 have open ends. These pipelines will be depressurized and any standing water inside, or near them, will be collected in a Baker tank. Next, the pipes will be cleaned by hydroblasting; any water from this process will also be discharged into the Baker tank. All water from the pipes will be tested and disposed of appropriately.

Eleven pipelines located at MP 163.67, MP 162.08, MP 141.55, MP 140.50, MP 138.24, MP 135.98, MP 129.63, MP 128.89, MP 92.72, MP 81.11, and MP 72.95 are not in service and have closed ends. These will be located with hydrovac excavation, which is equipment using a high pressure water to break down the soil; a vacuum will be used to lift the slurry into a debris tank and an excavator will be used to unearth the pipe. Shoring will be installed so the pipelines can be safely accessed. After each pipe has been exposed and investigated to address sources of water intrusion, the pipelines will be depressurized, drained, inspected, blocked, and a section will be cut out and removed. All water will be collected into Baker tanks, tested, and disposed of appropriately.

Six pipelines located at MP 161.62, MP 137.83, MP 107.15, MP 102.88, MP 91.36, and MP 91.35 are in service. These pipes will be located, excavated, inspected, depressurized, and drained. All water will be collected into Baker tanks, tested, and disposed of appropriately.

Each pipeline may either be repaired or grouted. Excavated areas will be backfilled and recontoured.

**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:** The project involves inspection then repair or grouting and abandonment of existing irrigation pipelines. There will be no expansion of existing use or capacity.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Water Resources

**Contact Person:**

**Telephone:**

**Signature:**

*Moranda*

**Date:**

*11/1/19*

**Title:**

*Chief, Maint. Eng*

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**NOV 01 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**