

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 MP 141.07R Westlands Water District Turnout Conversion

Project Location City and County: Fresno

Project Location, Specific: The work site is located on the right-side (R) of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 141.07. The site is in Fresno County and is approximately 1.95 miles north-northwest of where Fresno Coalinga Road intersects the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) has requested permission to encroach on the DWR right-of-way (ROW) to install a new underground 12-inch diameter PVC pipe and an above-ground 12-inch diameter steel pipe and supports that are part of an existing WWD temporary turnout at Aqueduct MP 141.07R. This work will convert the temporary turnout into a permanent one. Work entails saw-cutting the asphalt on the DWR's Aqueduct Road and digging an approximately 80-foot long, by 2-foot wide, by 4.5-foot deep trench; the trench will be dug through DWR's Aqueduct Road and toe road. Once the pipe is in the trench, it will be encased in concrete. The trench will be backfilled, compacted, and the road will be re-asphalted where needed. An approximately 16-foot long segment of 12-inch diameter steel pipe will be installed above-ground and fitted to 2-foot by 2-foot concrete footings, connected to the encased PVC pipe and then to an existing waterline located about 45 feet away. Additionally, trenching and above- and below-ground pipe installation will be done to connect the steel pipe to the existing waterline; the trenching and pipe installation will follow the alignment most suitable for connecting the turnout to the waterline. Once all of the pipe has been installed, steel guard posts will be placed to protect the above-ground piping. About 30 cubic yards of material will be excavated and backfilled for this work. WWD benefits.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands 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));
- X Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15305(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

WWD requested permission to encroach in the DWR ROW to convert an existing temporary turnout into a permanent one. DWR, acting as Responsible Agency, will issue an encroachment permit. The project will be in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent; there will be no changes in land use or density. Categorical Exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) applies. WWD will be responsible for any additional CEQA or permits needed.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature:  Date: 3/26/20

Printed Name: Frank Ruiz Title: UC Supervisor

Phone: 209-827-5134

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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