

**Notice of Exemption****- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
 For U.S. Mail:  
 P.O. Box 3044  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Central Region  
 1234 East Shaw Avenue  
 Fresno, CA 93710

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Line 56 Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Aqueduct Crossing Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-056-04)

**Project Location:** The Line 56 DWR Aqueduct Crossing Project is located in western Kern County, California, at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. The Project is located within DWR boundaries and the California Aqueduct right-of-way (ROW) east of Basic School Road and south of Copus Road within the northwest ¼ of Section 35, Township 12 North, Range 23 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M), in the Pentland, CA, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit, No. 2081-2018-056-04, to permit Plains Pipeline, L.P., to incidentally take San Joaquin antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox, which are listed as threatened species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively) and Tipton kangaroo rat, which is listed as an endangered species under CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(D)).

The proposed Project includes the replacement of a pipeline segment that is part of an existing 8-inch diameter steel pipeline that is used to transport crude oil that crosses the Aqueduct ROW. Results of a pipeline inspection found that a pipeline segment of approximately 922 feet, within the Project location, showed signs of a deteriorated wall thickness and an inadequate grade of steel. The pipeline needs immediate repair to prevent failure that could cause a spill of crude oil into the Aqueduct causing pollution of the waters therein. Replacement of the pipeline will consist of: Approximately 245-feet on the north side of the Aqueduct from station 249+75.16 to 252+19.74 (with 8.625" outer diameter (O.D.) x 0.322" wall thickness (WT) or better); 243-feet within the existing 20" casing crossing the Aqueduct from station 252+19.74 to 254+62.38 with 8.625" O.D. x 0.500"; and 434 feet on the south side of the Aqueduct from station 254+62.38 to 258.95.93 (with 8.625" O.D. x 0.322" WT or better). The Project will result in temporary impacts to no more than 1.99 acres of Covered Species habitat.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

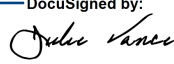
**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Plains Pipeline, L.P., Glen Mears, Director of Environmental & Regulatory Compliance, 3600 Bowman Court, Bakersfield, California 93308.

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (c); Public Resources Code Sec. 21080, subdivision (b)(4)  
 Categorical Exemption.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** See Attachment

**CDFW Contact Person:** Craig Bailey (Sr. Environmental Scientist, Supervisor), 559-243-4014, extension 227

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: 4/6/2020

Julie A. Vance,  
 Regional Manager, Central Region

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_ **APR 07 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

## **Attachment to Notice of Exemption**

### **California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-056-04 Plains Pipeline, L.P. Line 56 DWR California Aqueduct Crossing Project**

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for "Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency" (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, §21080, subd. (b)(4)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). "Emergency" is defined as "A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services" (Pub. Resources Code, §21060.3).

The proposed Project includes the replacement of a pipeline segment that is part of an existing 8-inch diameter steel pipeline that is used to transport crude oil that crosses the California Aqueduct Right of Way. Results of a pipeline inspection found that a pipeline segment of approximately 922 feet, within the Project location, showed signs of a deteriorated wall thickness and an inadequate grade of steel. Absent immediate repair of the pipeline, the pipeline could fail causing a spill of crude oil into the waters of the Aqueduct causing a situation of pollution of the waters therein.

Replacement of the pipeline will consist of: Approximately 245-feet on the north side of the Aqueduct from station 249+75.16 to 252+19.74 (with 8.625" outer diameter (O.D.) x 0.375" wall thickness (WT) or better); 243-feet within the existing 20" casing crossing the Aqueduct from station 252+19.74 to 254+62.38 (with 8.625" O.D. x 0.500" WT); and, 434 feet on the south side of the Aqueduct from station 254+62.38 to 258.95.93 (with 8.625" O.D. x 0.375" WT or better). The total disturbance area will be no more than 1.99 acres.

Project activities include clearing, grubbing, removing vegetation, excavation to expose pipeline, backfill and compaction of the pipeline trench, spills or leaks of hydrocarbons or other chemicals, leveling (soil cut and/or fill) and compaction, grading, materials laydown and storage, heavy equipment storage, construction and, Project-related traffic, and installation and removal of temporary exclusion fencing. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-056-04. Measures include: 1) Monthly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; 4) species relocation; and 5) permanent habitat protection.