

Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770 Gonzaga Rd.
Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 7 Westlands Water District Turnouts Erosion Repairs

Project Location City and County: Fresno and Kings Counties

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur at six existing Westlands Water District (WWD) turnouts in Reach 7 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The turnouts are on the left (L) side of the Aqueduct in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW). The turnouts at milepost (MP) 156.40L, MP 158.47L, MP 160.45L, MP 161.60L, MP 162.63L are in Fresno County; the turnout at MP 167.04L is in Kings County. The northernmost worksite is located about 2 miles east of the City of Huron; the southernmost worksite is about 7 miles northeast of the City of Avenal, CA.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: WWD requests encroachment permission to repair erosions in the embankments and ramps of six existing turnouts in the DWR ROW. Approximately 10 tons of soil will be used to complete all the repairs. A dump truck will transport the amount of soil needed to each site, and a backhoe will be used to deposit and spread the soil onto the eroded areas of the turnout embankments and ramps. The filled erosions will be compacted and will match the original contours. WWD and its Contractors will benefit.

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));

Categorical Exemption: 15305(b) Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits

- Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: WWD requests permission to work in the DWR ROW to repair erosions in existing turnout embankments and ramps. The average slope of the areas is less than 20 percent and there will be no change in land use or density. As a Responsible Agency, DWR will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Categorical exemption 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of Minor Encroachment Permits) applies.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature: Mark McDaniel Date: 7/2/2025

Printed Name: Mark McDaniel Title: Planner Scheduler/UC Supervisor Phone: (209) 827-5190