

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Department of Water
Resources, San Joaquin Field
Division
4201 Sabodan Street, Bakersfield, CA 93313

County Clerk

County of: _____

(Address)

Project Title: 2025 Coastal Smart Ball Inspection

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin Field Division

Project Location – Specific:

Mile point 14.86 to 27.55 of the State Water Project Coastal Branch.
Devil's Den pumping plant (DEPP) 35°42'42.6"N 120°00'41.8"W
Bluestone Pumping Plant (BLPP) 35°42'27.9"N 120°05'03.2"W
Polonio Pass Pumping Plant (POPP) 35°43'52.6"N 120°12'29.1"W
Polonio Pass water treatment facility 35°44'07.0"N 120°13'22.0"W

Project Location – City: Lost Hills and Shandon

Project Location – County: Kern and San Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

San Joaquin field division plans to use a smart ball to inspect the pipeline between Devil's Den pumping plant (DEPP) and tank site 1 of the State Water Project Coastal Branch.

To do this work, a smart ball will be inserted at the DEPP and retrieved either at the Bluestone Pumping Plant (BLPP) forebay or at the air vent downstream of the BLPP forebay. Then the smart ball will be inserted at the BLPP and retrieved either at the Polonio Pass Pumping Plant (POPP) forebay or at the air vent downstream of the POPP forebay. Finally, the smart ball will be inserted at the POPP and retrieved from water tank 1 at the Polonio Pass water treatment facility.

Sensors will be placed within several of the vaults along the pipeline. Insertion and extraction points may need modifications to accommodate insertion and retrieval of the smart ball. A crane may be required. Dirt roads will be utilized to reach the vaults. When visiting vault sites, vehicles will stay on established roads.

This work is anticipated to start in September and should take about a week to complete. All work will take place within the DWR right-of-way. This work is necessary to inspect and maintain the pipelines between the plants.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DWR- Operations & Maintenance

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)); 15301 (b)
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project consists of maintenance activities that support the function of the California Aqueduct and water delivery within the State Water Project.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Elizabeth Maldonado Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-858-5662

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: *Elizabeth Maldonado* Date: 07/30/25 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____