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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 Gonzaga Rd.
Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: California Aqueduct MP 106.35L Westlands Water District Transformer Replacement and Relocation

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur at an existing Westlands Water District (WWD) turnout in Reach 4 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). The turnout is on the left (L) side of the Aqueduct in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) at milepost 106.35, approximately 200 feet northwest of the intersection of the Brannon Avenue Bridge and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: WWD has requested encroachment permission to replace and relocate a failing overhead transformer located in its turnout in the DWR ROW. The transformer is currently installed on an overhead wooden pedestal supported by two wooden utility poles; the transformer, pedestal, and utility poles will be removed, and a new ground-mounted transformer will be installed.

After the existing transformer is de-energized by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), a WWD contractor will remove it and dispose of it offsite. Once the transformer is removed, the pedestal and the supporting utility poles will also be removed and disposed of offsite. An approximately 6-foot long by 6-foot wide by 6-inch deep area will be graded and leveled and a prefabricated 6-foot by 6-foot concrete pad will be placed on the graded area. A new transformer will be installed on top of the concrete pad by the WWD contractor, and PG&E will connect and energize the transformer. WWD will benefit from this work.

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: 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 encroachment permission to replace and relocate a failing overhead transformer and supporting structures located in its turnout in the DWR ROW. The work will take place in areas with an average slope of less than 20 percent and will not result in any changes in land use or density; DWR, as the Responsible Agency, 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: 9/12/2025

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