

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division
31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 5 Vegetation Removal

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur in portions of California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) Reach 5. Work will be in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way on the right (R) and left (L) sides of the Aqueduct in the following areas: milepost (MP) 119.82R to MP 121.90R, MP 122.20R to MP 125.20R, MP 119.74L to MP 121.60L, and MP 124.20L to MP 125.20L. The northernmost area is about 5.56 miles northwest of the intersection of State Route (SR) 33 and the Aqueduct. The southernmost area is about 0.11 miles northwest of the intersection of SR 33 and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR's San Luis Field Division (SLFD) and California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews will remove vegetation from 55-foot-wide areas along the Aqueduct toe roads in the work areas listed above. The vegetation will be removed manually using chain and pole saws. Vegetation taller than 8 feet will be left in place, but limbs up to 8 feet off the ground will be removed. The removed material will be piled on site and will be moved to designated burn piles after the CCC crews have finished. The piles will be burned when there is an authorized burn day, following the conditions in SLFD's burn permit. Vegetation maintenance is necessary to keep the toe roads clear; the State Water Project will benefit.

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption: 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work involves removing vegetation from portions of the DWR ROW. No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed. Categorical Exemption 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Mark McDaniel

Telephone: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Mark McDaniel **Date:** 10/29/2025 **Title:** Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant