Docusign Envelope ID: 4DF101B0-C457-40D8-AC86-0CFEF1E36703

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: CA Dept. of Water Resources
SLFD 31770 Gonzaga Rd
Gustine, CA 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: California Aqueduct Reach 4 Verizon Fiber Optic Line Repair

Project Location City & County: Fresno County

Project Location – Specific: The project is on the right side (R) of Reach 4 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) from Aqueduct milepost (MP) 104.42R to MP 105.85R. The northernmost area is about 1.65 miles southeast of the intersection of Russell Avenue and the Aqueduct; the southernmost area is about 0.65 miles northwest of the intersection of Brannon Avenue and the Aqueduct.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Verizon requests encroachment permission to repair its existing fiber optic service line located in the DWR ROW. The repair requires installation of a new handhole at MP 104.42R. Verizon's contractor will excavate an approximately 15-feet wide by 15-feet long by 3-feet deep area. A prefabricated 2-foot wide by 3-foot long by 3-foot high concrete handhole will be placed into the excavation and the area around it will be backfilled and compacted; the concrete cover will remain exposed as an access point for installing and splicing new fiber optic cable.

Once the handhole is installed, an approximately 1,478-foot long by 6-inch wide, 3-feet-deep trench will be excavated between the new handhole and an existing handhole at MP 104.70R. The trench will expose damaged trace wire, duct, and fiber optic cable. The duct and trace wire between MP 104.42R and MP 104.70R will be removed as well as the fiber optic cable between MP 104.42R and MP 105.85R. The removed materials will be disposed of at an appropriate offsite location. A new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) duct and trace wire will be placed in the trench and connected to the handhole and remaining duct. The trench will then be backfilled and compacted. New fiber optic cable will be installed by removing handhole covers, placing new cable through the handhole into the duct at MP 104.42R and pulling it through to the southernmost handhole at MP 105.85R. When the new cable is in place, the concrete covers will be placed over the handholes, and the area over the MP 104.70R handhole will be backfilled, compacted. Verizon will connect the new fiber optic cable by removing the handhole covers at MP 104.42R and MP 105.85R, and splicing the ends of the new fiber optic cable into the undamaged portions of the existing cable. When splicing is complete, the concrete covers will be placed over the handholes and the area over the covers will be backfilled, compacted, and recontoured to match the original topography. Verizon and its customers will benefit from this work.

Docusign Envelope ID: 4DF101B0-C457-40D8-AC86-0CFEF1E36703

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

☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Verizon requests encroachment permission to repair its existing fiber optic cable service line located 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 will issue an encroachment permit for this work. Categorical Exemption 15305 (b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Issuance of minor encroachment permits) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Cody Nelson **Telephone**: (209) 827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date**: 12/9/2025 **Title**: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supv

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant