

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: 2026 Vegetation Control Program

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

Project Location – Specific:

This project takes place within the SJFD. The field division's office is located at 4201 S Sabodan St, Bakersfield, CA 93313 (35°01'10.1"N 118°58'37.9"W). Herbicide will mainly be sprayed along aqueduct access roads. Aqueduct access roads run from MP 172.58 to 293.45 of the State Water Project (SWP) and MP 0.0 to 17.84 of the Coastal Branch.

Northern most region of SJFD: 36°00'43.1"N 119°58'33.6"W

Southern most region of SJFD: 34°55'45.2"N 118°48'20.8"W

Project Location – City: Lost Hills, Bakersfield,
Kettleman City,
Shandon

Project Location – County: Kern, Kings, San
Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The SJFD herbicide program is an annual maintenance activity that the field division uses to control the growth of unwanted vegetation within the field division. To accomplish this, pre-emergent herbicide is sprayed along access roads and around structures and buildings. This is accomplished using a spray rig mounted onto a pickup. In total, it takes around 3 months to spray the entire field division. Spot treatments are periodically sprayed, as needed, throughout the year. Plant debris (mainly tumbleweed) is removed and burned. Plant debris is removed using a back-hoe and is loaded onto a dump truck. The dump truck transports the debris to one of the various burn sites located throughout the SJFD. The amount of plant debris removed and burned varies depending on the time of the year. The SJFD herbicide program is critical in meeting aqueduct visibility, accessibility, and drainage requirements, as well as to protect the structural integrity of aqueduct embankments and structures.

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));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

15301 (b)

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: 1/27/26 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: _____