

Notice of Exemption

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

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

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 139.27R Westlands Water District Valve and Pipeline Repair

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: The project is on the right side (R) of Reach 5 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way (ROW) at Aqueduct milepost (MP) 139.27R. The work area is 0.07 miles northwest of the intersection of W Jeffrey Avenue and the Aqueduct (coordinates 36.371444, -120.262156).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to replace its existing, damaged and leaking butterfly valve and a portion of a pipeline located in its turnout in the DWR ROW. WWD will also repair the erosion located in its turnout that occurred when the valve and pipe leaked. A 25 foot long, by 25 foot wide, by 3 foot deep excavation will be made about 80 feet southwest of the turnout, to contain water that accumulated during the leak. The water will be removed using a vacuum truck, then discharged into the excavated area where it will be left to dry; once dry, the excavation will be backfilled and compacted. After the water is removed, an approximately 15 foot long by 15 foot wide by 10 foot deep trench will be excavated in the area where the leak occurred to locate the butterfly valve and pipe. To protect worker safety, a 10 foot long by 10 foot wide by 10 foot deep shoring box will be installed into the excavation, then the leaking 12-inch diameter butterfly valve and a one-foot section of 12-inch diameter steel pipe will be removed, disposed of, and replaced with a new valve and pipe of similar specifications. Once the valve and pipe are replaced, the shoring box will be removed. The eroded soil, and an additional 12 cubic yards of imported clean soil, will be placed into the excavated area and the area that eroded during the leak, and will be backfilled and compacted to the original grade. The project is necessary to continue water deliveries, WWD and its Contractors will benefit.

Public Agency Approving Project: DWR, 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 permission to repair its existing damaged valve and pipeline, and to repair an erosion in the DWR ROW. Work will occur in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent, work will not result in any changes to land use or density. DWR, as a 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: Cody Nelson Date: 2/9/2026

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