

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: California Department 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 7 Mowing and Grading

Project Location City & County: Fresno County and Kings County

Project Location – Specific: Work will occur on the left and right sides of Reach 7 of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct). Work will be in the DWR right of way (ROW) from Aqueduct milepost (MP) 155.64 to MP 172.40. The northernmost part of the work area (MP 155.64) is approximately 2.89 miles southeast of the intersection of the Aqueduct and State Route 198; the southernmost part (MP 172.40) is approximately 0.16 miles northwest of the intersection of the Aqueduct and Milham Avenue.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR's San Luis Field Division will perform this work annually. A tractor pulling a mower will be used to mow areas within 10 feet of either side of existing roads. Where accessible, mowing will also occur between the paved, main Aqueduct roads, and the dirt roads at the bottom of the Aqueduct embankments. Mower blades will be set at least 6 inches above the ground. A grader will be used to grade existing roads along the Aqueduct. Roads in the DWR ROW located around the City of Huron's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) will also be graded; gravel will be replaced on the WWTP roads, as needed. No work will occur on banks that are too steep or where there are protected resources. There will be no take of listed species.

Work is necessary to reduce fire hazards, to allow access for maintenance vehicles, and to enable inspections of Aqueduct embankments. State Water Project Contractors 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: 15301 (Existing Facilities)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work involves mowing and grading existing roads in Reach 7 of DWR's Aqueduct ROW. There will be no expansion of existing or former use of these roads; Categorical Exemption 15301 - Existing Facilities applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Cody Nelson

Telephone: 209-827-5190

Signature: Cody Nelson **Date:** 3/19/2026 **Title:** Planner Scheduler/UC Supv.

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant