

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Department of Water Resources
Division of Operations and Maintenance
715 P Street, Sacramento CA 95814

County Clerk
County of _____

(Address)

Project Title: Check 13 Vegetation Removal (OM-SLFD-2026-006)

Project Location - Specific:

Coordinates: 37°4'27.39"N, 121°0'58.22"W. Cross Streets: Hwy 33, Hilldale Ave

SWP Facility: O'Neill Forebay, Check 13

Project Location – City: Santa Nella Project Location – County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

DWR staff will remove overgrown vegetation adjacent to the aqueduct roads in Reach 3, starting at Check 13 and concluding at Hilldale Avenue to prevent obstruction of the access roads, barbed wire fenceline, and drainage features. Staff will use an industrial mower and hand tools to remove vegetation. All equipment staging will be located on established paved and unpaved roads. All work is within DWR right of way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of Water Resources

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: Class 1, Existing Facilities, Section No. 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The State Water Project provides significant and critical services to many Californians. This project is exempt because it involves routine maintenance activities. This project will not result in impacts to special status species or habitat. The Categorical Exemption Class 1 will be used for CEQA compliance as this activity will be implemented without any environmental impacts.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Sara Lowry Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 902-7709

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: Sara Lowry Date: 3/26/2026 Title: Environmental Program Manager, DWR

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: _____
- Signed by Applicant

Revised 2005