

# 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: Reach 5 Vegetation Removal (OM-SLFD-2026-007)

Project Location - Specific:

Coordinates: LAT 36°34'27.39"N, LONG 120°28'35.58"W to LAT 36°32'15.96"N, LONG 120°23'28.01"W

Cross Streets: Hwy 33, S San Diego Ave. SWP Facility: CAAQ, MM 120.30 to MM 125.20

Project Location – City: Mendota Project Location – County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

DWR staff will remove overgrown vegetation on both sides of the California Aqueduct from MP 120.30 to MP 121.90 and from MP 122.20 to 125.20. Vegetation will be trimmed manually using chainsaws and pole saws, piled on site by hand, then burned when there is an authorized burn day under SLFD's burn permit. 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: 4/2/2026 Title: Environmental Program Manager, DWR

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

Revised 2005