

**Notice of Exemption**

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**TO:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**FROM:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
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**Project Title:** Minor Alteration No. WA2026048 – Pipe Replacement Deferred Maintenance Project

**Project Applicant Lead Agency, Contact, Phone Number:** Lower San Joaquin Levee District; Shane Swartz, Project Manager; 11704 West Henry Miller Avenue, Dos Palos, CA 93620; [shane@lsjld.org](mailto:shane@lsjld.org); 559-400-2044

**Project Location:** The pipe to be replaced (DSID 19635) is located on the east bank of the San Joaquin River at Unit No. 01 San Joaquin River Levee Mile 11.777, San Joaquin County (37.269657, -120.826471). The pipe to be removed (DSID 19960) is located on the east bank of the San Joaquin River at Unit No. 24 San Joaquin River Levee Mile 8.325, San Joaquin County (36.778084, -120.184454).

**Project Description:** The project proposes to replace an existing 24-inch metal corrugated pipe (DSID 19635) with a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe, and remove an existing 12-inch concrete pipe culvert (DSID 19960) and its appurtenant structures. DSID 19635 is a system feature as shown in the “Lower San Joaquin River Flood Control Project Operation and Maintenance Manual for Levees, Irrigation and Drainage Structures, Channels, and Miscellaneous Facilities, Part 1, 1967”. At DSID 19635, the existing inlet and outlet structures and 111.5 feet of existing pipe will be removed and disposed. The replacement pipe will be reinforced concrete, and voids under and around the pipe will be backfilled with controlled low-strength material (CLSM). New inlet and outlet headwalls will be installed at the ends of the pipe and will fall within the footprint of the original design. The replacement pipe will comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Waters, Division 1 (Title 23) which requires a flap gate on the waterside end with provisions for positive closure, either a slide gate or a sluice gate. The slide gate or sluice gate will be housed in a gatewell (riser) at the waterside edge of the levee crown. The levee slopes will be restored to existing grade, and a minimum of four inches of aggregate base will be installed on the levee crown road. At DSID 19960, 35 feet of the existing pipe, drain inlet, outlet structure, and flap gate will be removed. Over-excavation may be performed to remove any sandy or loose native material. An existing fence will be removed to facilitate construction and will be replaced afterwards.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption: Sections 15302, 15303, 15304, and 15301

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, 15302), because the activity consists of replacement and reconstruction of an existing structure in the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the replaced structure. The project is also exempt from CEQA under the Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures categorical exemption (CCR, Title 14, Section 15303), because the activity consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. In addition, the project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land categorical exemption (CCR, Title 14, Section 15304), because the activity consists of minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Finally, the project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 1, Existing Facilities categorical exemption (CCR, Title 14, Section 15301), because the activity consists of the demolition and removal of accessory structures. Further, none of the exceptions to the exemption in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15300.2 apply.

*Chris Lief*

5/12/2026

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Signature

Chris Lief, Executive Officer

Date

Signed by Public Agency       Signed by Responsible Agency