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Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
Online

From: California Department of Water Resources
691 N. Laverne Ave
Fresno, CA 93727

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Merced River Robinson Reach Geotechnical Investigation

Project Location City & County: Snelling, Merced County

Project Location – Specific: Merced River at River Mile 44.13 right bank within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Robinson Reach Conservation Easement

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

DWR proposes geotechnical exploration to collect in-situ bank material for particle-size distribution (grain-size gradation) testing and erodibility evaluation. Results will guide the design of subgrade layers, including geotextile fabric, for bank stabilization for the Merced River Robinson Reach Maintenance Project.

Two test pits, each approximately 30 feet long, 10 feet deep, and 4 feet wide, will be excavated by backhoe along the bank's outside edge. They will be at least 25 feet from the bank and about 200 feet apart to characterize gradation across the proposed design. Spoils will be placed at least two feet from each excavation. Each pit will be benched at a 2:1 horizontal-to-vertical slope along its 30-foot profile to the maximum depth. Excavations will be backfilled once the geotechnical data has been collected.

The work will be completed in one day to avoid leaving excavations open onsite. Each pit will be logged using visual soil classification. Two bulk samples will be collected in 5-gallon buckets from each pit, at approximately 4–5 feet and 8–10 feet below ground surface.

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: 15306 (Information Collection)

☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: This geotechnical investigation is covered under Section 15306 Information Collection because the collection of geotechnical information will aid in the design of the bank stabilization for the Robinson Reach Maintenance Project with no serious or major disturbance to environmental resources.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Karen Dulik **Telephone**: (916) -820-7593

Signature: Karen Dulik Date: 10/29/2026 **Title**: Environmental Compliance Program Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant