

Notice of Exemption

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To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard,
Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Reestablish Amargosa Voles in Shoshone Village, Inyo County

Project Location (include county): The Project is located at Shoshone Village, Inyo County (35°58.19'N 116°16.35'W) adjacent to Old Highway 178, 0.5 miles north of the intersection of State Route 167 and State Route 178. Ancillary project sites include two marshes (35°53.00'N 116°14.01'W and 35°52.85'N 116°13.90'W) near Tecopa, Inyo County.

Project Description:

The project will capture and translocate between three and six pairs of the state and federally listed as endangered, wild-caught Amargosa Voles (*Microtus californicus scirpensis*) into restored habitat on private land near Shoshone Village. The project will minimize impacts to the donor populations by removing surplus individuals at the time of maximum seasonal abundance under the terms of a federal recovery permit. Use of proven handling techniques will minimize the chance of injury or loss to translocated individuals. The receiving property owner, and the source property owner US Bureau of Land Management are full partners in the project. Amargosa voles currently occupy approximately 75 acres of suitable habitat within a 1.5-mile radius of Tecopa, but have been absent from their former habitat in and near Shoshone Village for over 100 years. The project will establish an independent, geographically separate, second population of Amargosa Voles, to better secure the subspecies from extinction.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class (7); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section (15307);

Reasons why Project is exempt: *Class 7, §15307, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources*-The proposed project is an activity that falls within the Class 7 exemption because it is a wildlife preservation activity of CDFW that is limited in scope and no serious or major disturbances to environmental resources are expected. The project will reestablish Amargosa Voles in their former habitat to support Recovery Plan objectives and to decrease the probability of subspecies extinction.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Steve Parmenter, CDFW, (760) 872-1123

Signature: Leslie MacNair *Date:* 7/2/2020
Leslie MacNair, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____