

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:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Moccasin Creek Hatchery Permanent Recirculation Project

Project Location: Moccasin Creek Fish Hatchery near the town of Moccasin, California (Tuolumne County).

Project Description: The San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC), a department of the City and County of San Francisco, operates the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power System, which provides water to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) Moccasin Creek Fish Hatchery (Hatchery) from Moccasin Reservoir. In 2016, an emergency recirculation system was constructed by CDFW at the Hatchery (funded by SFPUC), which allowed the Hatchery to continue operating with a smaller fish inventory and with only 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) of inflow from Moccasin Reservoir. This emergency recirculation system successfully operated during SFPUC's January 3, 2017 to March 4, 2017 shutdown, which temporarily eliminated water deliveries through the Mountain Tunnel to accommodate necessary inspections and maintenance. As a result of inspections and work performed during the 2017 Shutdown, SFPUC determined it would require multiple 60- to 100-day shutdowns over a 6-year period to complete the rehabilitation of Mountain Tunnel. Adding on to what was constructed in 2016, CDFW will be constructing a reuse system (Permanent Recirculation System) at the Hatchery using funding provided by SFPUC. The Permanent Recirculation System will accommodate water supply interruptions for periods of 60 to 100 days. The Permanent Recirculation System generally consists of installation of: 1) permanent power with backup generator and transfer switch; 2) a new sump for existing pumps; 3) drum filtration; 4) a safe platform access for existing aeration towers; and 5) a fish exclusion screen at the existing settling pond.

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:

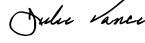
Statutory Exemption.

Categorical Exemption. 15301, Existing Facilities. This project involves the repair/replacement and operation at an existing facility. The Hatchery was constructed in 1952 on land owned by SFPUC and all actions related to the Permanent Recirculation System will be within the existing disturbed Hatchery footprint.

Reasons why project is exempt: The SFPUC maintenance project is necessary to maintain potable water delivery from the Hetch Hetchy Water System to the City and County of San Francisco. The Permanent Recirculation Project is necessary as a result of the overall SFPUC maintenance project but it was not specifically contemplated in the CEQA analysis conducted previously by SFPUC, as the Permanent Recirculation Project was not fully developed at the time of their CEQA analysis.

CDFW Contact Person: Julie Vance, Regional Manager (559) 243-4005, extension 121.

Signature:

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Date: 7/17/2020

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager
 Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: Jul 17 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE