

Notice of Exemption

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 Blvd, Suite C-22
Ontario, CA 91764



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Release of water to the Owens River through the Gorge Power Plants (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0094-R6)

Project Location (include county): The Project is located in the Owens River Gorge (Gorge) between the Long Valley Dam and the Control Gorge Power Plant (Exhibit A), within the Owens River. The Owens River is a tributary to Owens Lake. The Project area lies east of U.S. Route 395, approximately 22 miles north-west of the city of Bishop, in the Counties of Inyo and Mono, State of California; Section 10, Township 6S, Range 31E, United States Geological Survey (USGS) map Rovana; Section 5 & 16, Township 5S, Range 31E, USGS Casa Diablo Quadrangle.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2020-0094-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The proposed Project is limited to operations associated with the stipulated agreement (Case No. 10088) including the release of water to the Owens River in excess of Court-ordered minimum flows between the Upper Gorge Power Plant and the Control Gorge Power Plant, not to exceed 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) (Exhibit A).

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Class 1; § 15301 Existing Facilities (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15301), and Class 21; § 15321 Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15321).

Reasons why project is exempt: This Project is limited to operations of existing facilities associated with the stipulated agreement and requirement of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to notify CDFW when water is released into the Owens River (between the Upper Gorge Power Plant and the Control Gorge Power Plant) from existing facilities.

CDFW Contact Person: Alyssa Marquez, Environmental Scientist (760) 567-0332

DocuSigned by:
Signature: Jeff Brandt *Date:* 8-27-2020
 For Scott Wilson
 Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____