

**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 Boulevard,  
Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764

*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title: Silver Creek LCT restoration project**

**Project Location (include county):** This project is located on Silver Creek, allocated 18 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Bridgeport, Mono County. Access to Silver Creek begins at the turn to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Pickle Meadows on California State Route 108.

**Project Description:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife will divert a portion of the streamflow around 2000 foot-long reaches or more of Silver Creek, beginning in the headwaters and proceeding downstream. Electrofishing will be conducted in the remaining water pockets to remove non-native fish from the stream and aid in restoration of existing Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat. No impact to the streambank, water quality, or riparian habitat will occur, relatively short sections of stream will be temporarily diverted, and no sediment or pollutants will be introduced during the entirety of this project. This project will temporarily impact 0.2 acres of stream and riparian habitat each the project is undertaken and will not result in permanent impacts to the streambank or channel of Silver Creek.

**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. Class 4 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15304), and Class 33 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15333)

**Reasons why Project is exempt:** *Class 4, §15304*, Minor Alterations to Land - the Project will result in minimal impacts to the condition of the land and will not result in removal of mature, healthy, scenic trees; however, it will result in the improvement of fish habitat. *Class 33 §15333*, Small Habitat Restoration Projects – the project area will not exceed five acres and will assure restoration, enhancement, and protection of Lahontan cutthroat trout and surrounding habitat with no significant adverse impact on listed species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Russell Black 951-852-6386

*Signature:*  \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* 3/8/2021

Russell Black, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_