

Notice of Exemption

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

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



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: North Grasslands Wildlife Area Drainage and Nutria Structure

Project Location: The Project will occur at North Grasslands Wildlife Area – Salt Slough Hunter Check Station (8885 Wolfsen Road, Los Banos, California 93635) in Merced County.

Project Description: The Salt Slough Hunter Check Station serves as the primary field office and supply/equipment storage facility for CDFW’s nutria eradication field operations. This site will receive an accessory structure to hold captive nutria for the Program’s telemetered “Judas” nutria strategy. This strategy will be critical for locating remnant nutria across the landscape and ensuring the eradication is successful for the protection of California’s resources and infrastructure. This developed site/storage yard experiences extensive and regular flooding during the winter and spring. To alleviate flooding from the equipment storage area, the site requires a wastewater tank to receive the outflow from the nutria structure and the site’s drinking water treatment system; once filtered, the tank water and surrounding flood waters will be pumped to the adjacent pond basin for percolation.

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 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301

Reasons why project is exempt: See attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Bob Stafford, Environmental Program Manager, Bob.Stafford@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Annee Ferranti
041A77B10D78486...

Signature:

Date: 4/23/2021

for Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Notice of Exemption Attachment

North Grasslands Wildlife Area Drainage and Nutria Structure

Approval of this Project is subject to categorical exemption from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Pub. Resources Code §21084). These exemptions have been made upon a finding that the projects will have no significant effect on the environment. This Project is exempt under Class 1: Existing Facilities. Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, or maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing... (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15301).

This project will take place at the North Grasslands Wildlife Area's Salt Slough Hunter Check Station site, which is a developed site consisting of both private and public structures and facilities. The site includes a large, gravel parking area and equipment storage yard, where the project will take place. The additional structure (~1200 sq. ft. cement slab, roof, storage structure) and wastewater tank will be placed within the developed gravel yard, which is not an environmentally sensitive area. Additionally, the installation of the water pump constitutes a maintenance activity (i.e., flood management) for the equipment storage yard. The water pumped from the gravel yard will be conveyed to the adjacent, primarily dry, pond basin, which is already part of the Wildlife Area's wetlands management regime of manual flooding/draining.