

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-220
Ontario, CA 91764



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Base of Mountains Measuring Stations Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-INY-14109-R6)

Project Location: The project is located at nine (9) tributaries to Owens Lake, in the County of Inyo, State of California. 1) Tuttle Creek: Latitude 36.55954, Longitude -118.17116; 2) Diaz Creek: Latitude 36.56445, Longitude -118.11169; 3) North Fork Lubkin Creek: Latitude 36.53268, Longitude -118.13791; 4) Carroll Creek: Latitude 36.50616, Longitude -118.09828; 5) Cottonwood Creek: Latitude 36.43900, Longitude -118.17941; 6) Ash Creek: Latitude 36.38977, Longitude -118.04098; 7) Braley Creek: Latitude 36.3373, Longitude -118.03636; 8) Olancha Creek: Latitude 36.27421, Longitude -118.02898; 9) Walker Creek: Latitude 36.24565, Longitude -118.05360.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number EPIMS-INY-14109-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The project is limited to installation of new rectangular compound weirs (hydrologic measuring devices) and instrument boxes that house data loggers at seven (7) of the locations identified above and repair/maintenance of existing weirs at two (2) of the locations identified above (Base of Mountain [BOM] stations). The new steel plated weirs will be approximately 4-feet high by 8-feet wide, will be placed in the creek channels, and will be anchored by wood boards, boulders and sandbags. Installation of the weirs will require digging and sediment removal within the bed and bank of the creeks. At each BOM station an instrument box connected to a perforated pipe or stilling well will be installed in the bank adjacent to the weir. Installation of the instrument box will require digging 1-foot by 2-foot deep hole using hand tools. Project activities at seven of the BOM station sites may require diverting flows around the work site. Riparian vegetation will be trimmed immediately adjacent to the Project sites (no trees will be removed) and along access routes. Equipment used to conduct Project activities includes: hand tools (shovels), single backhoe and/or crane (as needed to assist in weir and sandbag placement), fuel service trucks, utility trucks, pickup trucks, and Helicopters (may be used for delivering materials to Tuttle, Ash and Carroll Creek where site access is difficult).

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 6; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306

Reasons why project is exempt: The main purpose of the Project is to gather data that will be used to understand the hydrology adjacent to Owens Lake and to quantify stream channel recharge. The activities will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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

Signature: Alisa Ellsworth *Date:* 4/22/2021

Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____