

**Notice of Exemption****Appendix E**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Tulare

221 S. Mooney Blvd.

Visalia, CA 93591

**From:** (Public Agency): CA Dept. of Water Resources  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95821

(Address)

Project Title: Farewell Gap Weather Station Tower Reconstruction

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific:

(Lat 36.4150886535645, Long -118.578903198242)

Project Location - City: Mineral King, CA Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Farewell Gap weather station is a high elevation, remote weather station located in Farewell Canyon within Sequoia National Park. During the 2017 winter the tower was destroyed by an avalanche or wind and has been non-functional since. To combat avalanche impacts, DWR proposes to install a stronger triangulated tower with increased sheer strength approximately 100' away from the old station to avoid potential for future damage by avalanches or wind. The old station will be removed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project would involve construction of a new weather station at the Farewell Gap monitoring location in the Sierra Nevada mountains. The new structure will be located approximately 100' away from the old structure it is replacing and will function to collect a variety of weather data. The foundation of the new tower is 5' x 5' x 5' concrete base anchored in rock.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Gina Radieva Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-712-6873

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: David Rinzardo Date: 5/19/2021 Title: Supv Engineer, WR

▪ Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

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