

# 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: Inyo

**From:** (Public Agency): Caltrans District 9  
500 South Main St.  
Bishop, CA 93514

(Address)

Project Title: Olancha/Cartago 4-Lane Mitigation Planting

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

Cottonwoods will be planted along the banks of Olancha Creek outside of newly acquired

Project Location - City: Olancha Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

In order to fulfill mitigation requirements under the project's Lake and Streambed Alteration (1600) permit, Caltrans will be planting approximately one hundred and eighty-two five-gallon cottonwood saplings along the banks Olancha Creek outside of the newly acquired right-of-way. Plantings will require the use of hand tools, vehicles, and heavy equipment. To ensure successful establishment of cottonwood sapling, the importation of water may be needed for up to two years following construction of the Olancha-Cartago project. In addition to cottonwood plantings, tamarisk removal will also occur which will require the use of hand tools and the application of herbicide.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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: 15333
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

After a review of the proposed mitigation site, and with approval from the existing land owner (Bureau of Land Management - Bishop Field Office), it has been determined that no known environmental resources will be impacted by work activities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Ryan Spaulding Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 760-937-1556

**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:  Date: 8/6/21 Title: Assoc Env Planner

▪ 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: \_\_\_\_\_