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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region, Redding Office  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, CA 96002

**Date:** 17 August 2021

**Project Title:** Round Valley Meadow Restoration Project

**Project Location - Specific:** Lassen Trail  
Section 35 & 03, Township 28 & 27 North, Range 4 East,  
MDB&M  
Latitude: 40.235915° and Longitude: -121.505253°

**Project Location - County:** Tehama County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Project purpose is to restore floodplain connectivity, backwatering and abundant shallow water to increase both the quantity and quality of breeding habitat available for Cascades frogs (*Rana cascadae*). Restoration will include constructing Process-Based Restoration (PBR) structures in the meadow and stream reaches, which will consist entirely of hand-placed, native materials harvested on-site. PBR structures will include post-reinforced conifer jams, one-rock weirs, channel-spanning brush jams, and postless beaver dam analogues. Adaptive management assessments, maintenance, and development of the structures will be ongoing until it has been determined that project objectives have been met.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:**

**Federal Agencies:** The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit No. 27.

**State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office. WDID No. 5A52CR00214.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Sheli Wingo  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
11641 Blocker Drive, Suite 110  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Exempt Status:**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 19, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration. Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that: (a) there would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065; (b) there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and (c) the project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects

**Reasons why Project is Exempt:**

This project is Categorically Exempt under CEQA section 15333 because the project's sole purpose is habitat restoration and is less than 5 acres in size.

**Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Matthew Roberts  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**

(530) 223-9538

**State Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Redding Branch Office

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**

(530) 224-2437

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 8/17/2021

**Title:** Senior Environmental Scientist

cc: Sheli Wingo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Auburn  
Matthew Roberts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding  
Brad Henderson, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Redding