



February 8, 2022

ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION Interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), by and through its Wildlife Branch, has taken final action to approve the Interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program. In taking its final agency action for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) approved this project relying on the categorical exemption for “Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources” contained in CEQA Guidelines section 15307.

In 2021, the California state legislature appropriated funding through Senate Bill 170, Ch. 204, Statutes of 2021 (Section 52) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to “develop a grant process to allocate funds to pay for the deterrence of wolf presence near livestock, the impacts of wolf presence on livestock, and for verified loss of livestock for participating ranchers.” To address the current economic impacts due to depredation, CDFW has developed the Interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program to award grants consistent with this legislative directive. The review effort pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061 lead staff to conclude the proposed project is an activity that falls within the Class 7 categorical exemption discussed below.

Class 7 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the approval of the Interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15307, the exemption for “Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources”. A livestock depredation compensation program was identified as a priority in the 2016 Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California. The project complements and supports the Conservation Plan by developing and maintaining a cooperative livestock producer assistance program that assists livestock producers experiencing wolf-related livestock losses. Compensation programs support the ability of livestock producers to weather the economic impacts associated with depredation events and, in turn, have the resources to maintain habitat that supports the coexistence of predators and livestock.