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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  
1400 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:** 18 February 2022

**Project Title:** Keswick Gravel Injection 2022 Project

**Project Location - Specific:** Keswick Dam Road  
Assessor's Parcel Number: 065-240-012-000  
Latitude: 40.609016° and Longitude: -122.446498°

**Project Location - County:** Shasta County

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

The Project consists of importing fish spawning gravel, dumping it near the edge of an embankment more than 100 feet above the river, and then pushing it into the river where it will naturally migrate downstream and replenish spawning areas. Gravel injections serve to replace spawning gravel in the river system that is no longer naturally available due to Shasta and Keswick Dam. The Project will import approximately 20,000 tons of washed, clean spawning gravel over a period of three weeks in a location historically utilized for this purpose. During high flow events and releases, the gravel will naturally wash downstream and replenish the spawning gravel in areas where fish spawn, like Redding Riffle and Turtle Bay. This is an annual or bi-annual project conducted under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and funded by the Bureau of Reclamation.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:**

**Federal Agencies:** The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Regional General Permit No. 16.

**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. 5A45CR00614.

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

John Hannon  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
801 I Street, Suite 140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**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 spawning 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** Senior Environmental Scientist