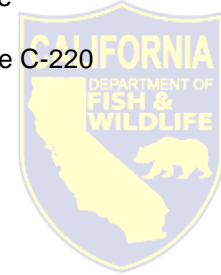


**Notice of Exemption**

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
*For U.S. Mail:*  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764



*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Lake Skinner Outlet Tower Shutdown (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-RIV-23077-R6).

**Project Location (include county):** The Lake Skinner Outlet Tower Shutdown project (Project) is located in unincorporated Riverside County, State of California within Townships 7S, Range 2W, Section 3 on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Bachelor Mountain 7.5-minute series quadrangle topographic map; Latitude 33.585432, Longitude -117.075151; Assessor’s Parcel Number 964-030-010.

**Project Description:** The Project includes changes to stream areas associated with a dewatering event and shutdown of the Lake Skinner Outlet Tower. Dewatering to allow staff to conduct maintenance. This event may occur between March 2022 through May 2023 or modified dates with CDFW approval. Project activities in the stream areas include the placement of erosion control measures and the release of water into jurisdictional areas from one discharge location within Tualota Creek. Dewatering methods include releasing water via an existing outlet pipe; diverting raw water through a filtration system, dissipation socks, or dewatering hoses; and discharging the water to stream areas.

Between the defined dates, approximately 3.1 - 24.8-acre feet (AF) of raw water will be released into the Lake Skinner concrete spillway, located near the southern end of the Lake Skinner Dam, and temporarily held in a grouted riprap basin at the base of the spillway. The water will be released from the basin to Tualota Creek through an existing drain valve at a rate of 75-100 gallons per minute, equal to about 0.20 cubic feet per second (cfs), for approximately seven days. The release will be regulated at the release valve to maximize percolation into Tualota Creek. While one dewatering discharge is planned for this location, Metropolitan may be required to dewater the Lake Skinner Outlet Tower up to eight additional times at up to 5 cfs in order to make the necessary repairs, if deemed necessary following the post-repair inspection for a total of 3.1 to 24.8 AF of water discharged into Tualota Creek.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section (15301)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This project is limited to the repair and maintenance of an existing structure and will result in minor alterations to the land.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Breanna Machuca, Environmental Scientist, (760) 636-3487

DocuSigned by:  
*Scott Wilson*  
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3/21/2022

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

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