

**Notice of Exemption**

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**To:**

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

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Region 4  
 1234 East Shaw Ave.  
 Fresno, CA 93710

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** North Carrizo Ecological Reserve Wildlife Water Infrastructure Development Project

**Project Location:** The project location is at approximately 35.351528, -120.005275, in San Luis Obispo County, approximately 35 miles east of San Luis Obispo, on the North Carrizo Ecological Reserve. The project location is within Sections 6-8, 14-18, 21-26, 31, and 35, T29S R18E; and Sections 4 and 5, T30S R18E; Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. These locations are on the La Panza NE USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map, with portions on the Simmler, Las Yeguas Ranch, and California Valley USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle maps.

**Project Description:** The North Carrizo Ecological Reserve Wildlife Water Infrastructure Development Project entails retrofitting seven (7) existing water wells with a solar pump, solar panels, 5000-gallon poly (plastic) water tanks, well fence enclosures, and 300-425 gallon water troughs. The 1.25" polypipe water lines connecting wells to tanks and tanks to troughs will be trenched at 10"-15" depth primarily on existing dirt roads and through former cropland that is now grassland. The proposed project will install new water tanks, troughs, connecting line, and minor fencing at each of the 7 water well sites. The installation will involve minor grading, trenching, and backfilling. The project will affect annual grassland.

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

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 4(d,f); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Minor alteration to the land that will result in improvement of habitat for wildlife. Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. This project involves minor ground disturbance retrofitting existing water wells. The installation of water troughs and associated infrastructure in a network across the North Carrizo Ecological reserve will restore wildlife water sources at existing, historic locations that were originally installed for cattle grazing and wildlife.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Craig Fiehler (661) 335-2380

**Signature:** Valerie Cook **Date:** 5/5/2022  
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 Valerie Cook, Acting Regional Manager

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