

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:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Bay Delta Region
 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
 Fairfield, CA 94534

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District (CMRPD) Flow Release

Project Location: Water is sourced from two wells in Monte Rio and pumped to the water treatment facility at the Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds (ARCG) located at 6250 Bohemian Hwy, Occidental, CA 95465.

Project Description: The purpose of the project is to release water from the CMRPD water system treatment facility into Dutch Bill Creek with the goal of maintaining flows sufficient for downstream pools to be connected throughout the dry season. Permittee sources its water from two wells in Monte Rio, at the downstream end of the Dutch Bill watershed, and it is pumped via a six-inch pipeline to the treatment facility at ARCG, where it is sanitized before being distributed to users throughout the CMRPD and Occidental Community Services District systems. Water is held in a 7,500-gallon tank at the facility prior to being treated, and it is from this tank that water is released into the creek. From the release point, the water flows approximately 125 feet to the channel's confluence with Dutch Bill Creek, near the downstream end of the ARCG property. The rate of flow is monitored using a meter installed at the tank outlet and controlled by means of a manual valve at the end of the release pipeline. The maximum flow rate is 34 gallons per minute. The outlet is configured to aerate the water as it is released to maximize dissolved oxygen, and further aeration occurs as it flows down the relatively steep constructed channel.

The target rate of release to Dutch Bill Creek is 0.1 cfs, but actual diversion rates may vary based on instream flow conditions, facilities constraints, and the terms of Permit 21198. The total volume of water released will not exceed 35 acre-feet annually. CDFW will work directly with CMRPD to initiate flow releases and adjust as needed throughout the release period. The flow releases will continue up to the first substantial rain event or until flow conditions in Dutch Bill Creek recover to a minimum of 0.1 cfs, but not after December 31.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 21080(b)(3) and 15269(a), Governor's Proclamation of State of Emergency, May 10, 2021
- Categorical Exemption.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The May 10, 2021 Emergency Proclamation directed the SWRCB to consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations to conserve water upstream later in the year in order to protect cold water pools for salmon and steelhead, improve water quality, protect carry over storage, or ensure minimum health and safety water supplies. For purposes of carrying out or approving this directive, paragraph 11 of the same proclamation suspended the environmental review by state agencies required by CEQA, and these provisions and directives have been maintained in full force and effect by subsequent proclamations and orders, including Executive Order N-7-22, issued March 28, 2022.

CDFW Contact Person: Craig Weightman Craig.Weightman@wildlife.ca.gov Phone: (707) 339-1332

DocuSigned by:

Erin Chappell

Signature: _____

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Erin Chappell, Regional Manager

Date: 5/17/2022

Date received for filing at OPR: _____