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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:** 28 July 2022

**Project Title:**

Pairing Instream Restoration with Disturbances to Restore Headwater Meadows in the Plumas National Forest Using Process-Based Restoration Principles Project (Project)

**Project Location - Specific:**

**Middle Creek Meadow:** Latitude: 40.12276° and Longitude: -120.64227°

**McRae Meadow:** Latitude: 39.75711° and Longitude: -120.75553°

**Fall River Meadow:** Latitude: 39.73593° and Longitude: -121.0442°

**Project Location - County:**

Plumas County

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

The purpose of the project is to pair instream restoration with disturbances (wildfire) to restore headwater meadows using process-based restoration principles. Instream project designs will include low-tech biogenic structures such as post-assisted log structures (PALS) and beaver dam analogs (BDAs). Restoration also includes removing meadow-encroaching conifer trees which are not adapted to desired wet-meadow conditions.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:**

**Federal Agencies:** The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit No. 27.

**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. 5A32CR00230.

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

Joan Clayburgh  
The Sierra Fund  
204 Providence Mine Road, Suite 214  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**Exempt Status:**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects. 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 Categorical Exempt under CEQA section 15333 because the project's sole purpose is wet meadow habitat restoration and is less than 5 acres in size.

**Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Matthew Roberts  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding  
(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  
(530) 224-2437

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

**Title:** Senior Environmental Scientist

cc via  
email:

Matthew Roberts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding  
Zachary Kearns, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rancho Cordova  
Chris Kane, Plumas National Forest, Quincy  
Karen Pope, United States Forest Service, Arcata  
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Carrie Monohan, The Sierra Fund, Nevada City  
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