

Notice of Exemption

To:

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

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



Project Title: Independence Lake LCT Hybridization Project (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. NEV-30527-R2)

Project Location: The project is located at Independence Lake and Independence Creek in the County of Nevada and the County of Sierra, State of California; Latitude 39.452307, Longitude -120.290573 and Latitude 39.431212, Longitude -120.330215; Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 019-060-006-000 and 016-010-006-000.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification Number NEV-30527-R2, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The project is limited to the yearly installation of two temporary weirs. The first weir is named the Outlet Works Weir and will be located at the high point in the Outlet Works channel, approximately 50-feet downstream from the Outlet Works. The Outlet Works weir will prevent rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) from entering Independence Lake. The second weir is named the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Spawning Weir (LCT Spawning Weir) and will be located across the main inlet stream (Upper Independence Creek). The LCT Spawning Weir will be annually installed before May and will be removed after the LCT spawning is concluded in July.

The Outlet Works Weir will be approximately 18-feet wide and 5-feet high. The LCT Spawning weir will be approximately 25-feet-wide and its height will vary based on water flow and level. Both weirs will be constructed with ½-inch diameter pickets spaced ¾-inch apart with a trap box. The weirs will have 6 rectangular panels, 3-feet wide and 4-feet high. Installation of the weirs will include driving ½-inch diameter, 10-foot-long rebar 2-feet into the streambed, spaced 3-feet apart. Sandbags will then be placed on both side of the bottoms of the rectangular panels to seal any gaps. A 30-foot-long log, with holes drilled into it for the rebar, will then be lowered down with the rebar going through the holes, and the log sitting on the bank on either side of the channel. Additional rebar will secure the ends of the logs in place.

Non-native trout remaining above the weir will be removed using multi-pass electrofishing and will be released downstream of the weir.

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:

- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class (8); California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections (15308)

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Reasons why project is exempt: This Project is class eight exempt because it involves actions taken by regulatory agencies to ensure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of the environment.

CDFW Contact Person: Caitlyn Oswald, Environmental Scientist (916) 358-4315

DocuSigned by:
Tanya Sheya
Signature: _____ Date: 3/3/2023
Tanya Sheya, Environmental Program Manager