

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): Department of Water Resources
3500 Industrial Blvd
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(Address)

Project Title: Adult Fish Passage - Experimental Release

Project Applicant: Dean Messer

Project Location - Specific:

Fremont Weir Wildlife Area (38.764192, -121.646894)

Project Location - City: West Sacramento

Project Location - County: Yolo County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage Project (AFP) was constructed in 2018 to improve fish passage conditions within the Fremont Weir Wildlife Area. Hydrological conditions and two weir overtopping events in Winter 2023 resulted in a large debris accumulation along the Fremont Weir resulting in site access issues to remove AFP's stoplogs and operate the gate. Debris and stoplogs were removed in April 2023. The proposed experimental operation of the AFP gate would temporarily lower the AFP gate from April 27-29, 2023 with the possibility of operating two additional days the week of May 1, 2023 when when Sacramento River levels are on a descending curve. The proposed project would help to allow fish stranded in Tule Pond and Deep Pond to re-enter the Sacramento River.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15306

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This experimental operation of the AFP gate would help to inform future adaptive management decisions. The proposed experimental management would occur within the identified operational period of November 1 to May 31 and would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Elizabeth Vasquez

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 707-1268

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Dean Messer

Date: 04/27/2023

Title: Division Manager, DWR DISE

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____