

Notice of Exemption

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

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Title: Routine Maintenance of Smith Ditch (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-KER-32380-R4).

Project Location: The Project will occur in the Smith Irrigation Ditch (Smith Ditch), within the floodplain of the South Fork Kern River situated on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Canebrake Ecological Reserve, adjacent to Highway 178, approximately three miles northeast of Onyx and 48 miles east-northeast of Bakersfield; northeastern Kern County; Sections 25, 35, 36, Township 25 North, Range 35 East, USGS 7.5 Minute Quad Map Onyx, MDBM; beginning upstream at Latitude 35.729836, Longitude -118.173471 and ending downstream at Latitude 35.701828, Longitude -118.191630; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 055-130-06, 055-130-10, 055-130-11, 055-130-15, 055-130-25, 055-130-26, and 055-130-27.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement number EPIMS-KER-32380-R4 pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the applicant, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District.

The Project includes routine, reoccurring maintenance activities to facilitate water conveyance through the Smith Ditch where it traverses the Canebrake Ecological Reserve from its diversion from the South Fork of the Kern River to its terminus at Smith Ranch. Vegetation and debris will be removed, stockpiled in the ditch, and scooped out of the ditch. Material will be placed where it cannot reenter the ditch channels, or the piles will be hauled from the property in dump trucks.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1(b); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project includes the maintenance of an existing water conveyance ditch with no expansion of use. The Project will not have significant environmental impacts if it is completed under the protective features of Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-KER-32380-R4.

CDFW Contact Person: Jim Kitch (Environmental Scientist); 559-580-3198.

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____ *Date:* 6/13/2023
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 Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____