

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:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Region 1 - Northern
 601 Locust Street
 Redding, California 96001

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Ross Ranch Trenching Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, EPIMS-SHA-36458-R11)

Project Location: The projects are located at two unnamed tributaries to East Fork Stillwater Creek in Shasta County, California; 11973 Old Oregon Trail, Redding, CA 96003; Assessor's Parcel Number 074-350-002-000.

Project 1 is located at Latitude 40.637772, Longitude -122.306936, at an ephemeral tributary to East Fork Stillwater Creek.

Project 2 is located at Latitude 40.637641, Longitude -122.306514, at an intermittent tributary to East Fork Stillwater Creek.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, EPIMS-SHA-36458-R11, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the McConnell Foundation.

The projects are part of a USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service cost-share funded project that will expand off-stream livestock water, which is intended to reduce negative impacts of cattle watering on streams. The project includes sourcing water from an existing gravity-fed livestock watering system and trenching 1,965 feet of pipeline to provide livestock water to a new 500-gallon trough in an adjacent field, where cattle currently obtain water directly from streams.

Project 1 is limited to the trenching of the ephemeral tributary to East Fork Stillwater Creek in which to place two-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water pipeline. A skid steer with a trencher attachment will be used to trench a line approximately six-eight inches wide, 24 inches deep, and 18 feet long (approximately nine square feet total of ground disturbance) through the bed, bank, and channel of the ephemeral stream.

Project 2 is limited to the trenching of the intermittent tributary to East Fork Stillwater Creek, following the alignment of an existing low water crossing, and placement of a two-inch PVC water pipeline. A skid steer with a trencher attachment will be used to trench a line approximately six-eight inches wide, 24 inches deep, and 33 feet long (approximately 16.5 square feet total of ground disturbance) through the bed, bank, channel, and riparian corridor of the intermittent stream.

No woody riparian vegetation will be removed or disturbed to complete the projects.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: The McConnell Foundation, as represented by Sarah Jarrett

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption.

Categorical Exemption. Type – **Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304**, Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

Reasons why project is exempt: The project will only temporarily impact .0028 acres of stream channel on private land and will not involve the removal of trees.

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CDFW Contact Person: Helen Bowman (Environmental Scientist): (530) 485-7889; helen.bowman@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 6/1/2023 _____

Curt Babcock, Interior Habitat Conservation Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____