

Notice of Exemption

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



Project Title: Beard Ranch Riparian Restoration Project (Project) (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-KER-31680-R4)

Project Location: The Project is located along the northern and southern perimeter of Caliente Creek, and its confluence with Tehachapi Creek, southeast of the town of Caliente, in the County of Kern, California; Coordinates 35.293008, -118.614052; or Section 19, 24, 25, 26, Township 30 South, Range 31 East, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map Caliente.

Project Description: On 9/7/2023, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Number EPIMS-KER-31680-R4 pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602 for the Project, which will be carried out by The Nature Conservancy. The Project involves activities related to the restoration of native vegetation along 32 acres of Caliente Creek. The Project includes removal of invasive perennial plant species and revegetation with up to 631 propagated native plants and up to 985 cuttings from healthy native riparian trees. Additionally, the Project contains ongoing management and contingency planning, which may include installation of a temporary irrigation system.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: The Nature Conservancy

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

Reasons why project is exempt: CDFW has determined the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) CDFW's March 17, 2023, initial determination as lead agency the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive (see first attachment); and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the CDFW Director's May 12, 2023, concurrence with that CDFW determination (see second attachment).

CDFW Contact Person: Jim Vang, Environmental Scientist; (559) 580-3203 or jim.vang@wildlife.ca.gov

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Signature: _____ Date: 9/7/2023
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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____