

Notice of Exemption

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

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



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Mud Slough / Arroyo Canal and Agatha Extension Canal Water Conveyance Enhancement Project (Request No. 1652-2024-067-001-R4)

Project Applicant: Ricardo Ortega, Grassland Water District

Project Location: The Project is located within Mud Slough, beneath the Arroyo Canal and Agatha Extension Canal, approximately two miles east of the city of Los Banos, Merced County, California; centered at coordinates 37.049930, -120.7695; Sections 20 and 21, Township 10 South, Range 11 East; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map Los Banos; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 454-040-001-000, 454-040-002-000, 454-040-008-000, 454-040-009-000, and 454-010-006-000.

Project Description: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1652, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the Mud Slough / Arroyo Canal and Agatha Extension Canal Water Conveyance Enhancement Project submitted by the Grassland Water District, represented by Ricardo Ortega.

The primary purpose of the Project is wetland restoration. Project activities include the removal of accumulated sediment and vegetation within up to 0.35 acres of Mud Slough, removal of three dilapidated 208-linear foot, 36-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe culverts, and installation of two 208-linear-foot, 36-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe culverts. In addition, the Project will enhance wetlands at the soil borrow site, and spoils will be used to improve the integrity of an existing degraded levee. The Project will enhance water conveyance to 1,600 acres of managed upstream and downstream wetland habitat within Mud Slough.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

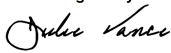
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Grassland Water District

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33 California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333

Reasons why project is exempt: Class 33 consists of small projects not to exceed 5 acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

CDFW Contact Person: Megan Rooney (Environmental Scientist), (559) 203-2792 or megan.rooney@wildlife.ca.gov.

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Signature: _____ **Date:** 4/2/2024

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager
Region 4: Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____