

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Wildlife Conservation Board**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Kurt Malchow

**Project Title:** Sierra Meadows Program: Climate Smart Meadow Restoration - Kwoelokam Meadow Grazing Management Project

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**

Project site is a 100 acre meadow including a hot spring located along Fay Creek north of Weldon in Kern County. APN: 055-410-03

**Project Location – City:** Weldon

**Project Location – County:** Kern

**CEQA Region:**

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**

Kwoelokam Meadow is in a degraded condition due to years of overgrazing. Grazing impacts to the meadow include stream bank erosion, compacted soils, and unnatural drainage formations. In addition, water diversions have dried portions of the meadow resulting in bare ground and an abundance of invasive species. This project will protect 100 acres of meadow, springs, and channel features from leased cattle grazing by installing 1.5 miles of fencing and repairing existing off-site water infrastructure. Reducing grazing impacts on the meadow while a restoration design is developed and implemented will protect native plants and cultural resources and support use of the meadow habitat by pollinators and wildlife.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: CCR Section §15304 Minor Land Alterations
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other: In addition: CCR §15301 Existing Facilities

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

WCB has determined that the objectives of enhancement and restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation, and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemptions. Also, as the project repairs existing water infrastructure offsite, CCR Section 15301 exemptions also apply.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Rebecca J. Fris

**Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (916) 212-5637

**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, (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** DocuSigned by:  
Rebecca J. Fris

**Title:** Deputy Executive Director

**Date:** 4/18/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code

**SCH #:**  
**Posted Date:**  
**Date Received for Filing at OPR:**