

Notice of Exemption**- 1 -**

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

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard,
Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Slinkard Creek LCT restoration project

Project Location (include county): his project is located on Slinkard Creek, allocated 5 miles west of the unincorporated community of Coleville, Mono County. Access to Slinkard Creek begins at the turn onto State Route 89.

Project Description:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the help of contractors, will divert a portion of the streamflow around 1000 foot-long reaches or more of Slinkard Creek, beginning in the headwaters and proceeding downstream. Electrofishing will be conducted in the remaining water pockets to remove non-native fish from the stream and aid in restoration of existing Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat. No impact to the streambank, water quality, or riparian habitat will occur, relatively short sections of stream will be temporarily diverted, and no sediment or pollutants will be introduced during the entirety of this project. This project will temporarily impact 0.2 acres of stream and riparian habitat each the project is undertaken and will not result in permanent impacts to the streambank or channel of Slinkard Creek.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Class 4 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15304), and Class 33 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15333)

Reasons why Project is exempt: *Class 4, §15304*, Minor Alterations to Land - the Project will result in minimal impacts to the condition of the land and will not result in removal of mature, healthy, scenic trees; however, it will result in the improvement of fish habitat. *Class 33 §15333*, Small Habitat Restoration Projects – the project area will not exceed five acres and will assure restoration, enhancement, and protection of Lahontan cutthroat trout and surrounding habitat with no significant adverse impact on listed species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Russell Black (951) 852-6386

DocuSigned by:
Russell Black
Signature: _____ **Date:** 6/3/2024
Russell Black, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____