

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd.,
Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764



Project Title: Owens Lake Spring Monitoring, Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS-INY-20701-R6.

Project Location (Inyo County): The Project is located in the Owens Lakebed, between the communities of Lone Pine and Olancho, bounded by State Route 136 to the north and east, State Route 190 to the south, and U.S. Highway 395 to the west, in the County of Inyo, State of California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-INY-20701-R6, to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) (Permittee), pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code.

The Project is limited to vegetation trimming and removal at 18 existing spring and flowing well measuring stations on Owens Lake, as well as the construction of a berm at Keeler spring (Project). Most sites require minimal vegetation trimming and removal, but some sites require vegetation trimming and removal of up to 50-feet upstream and downstream of the flow measuring device. All vegetation trimming will be accomplished with hand tools and small equipment. The construction of the berm at Keeler spring will involve the use of heavy equipment including a backhoe and small excavator. Utility trucks, fuel trucks and pickup trucks may be used. Five or 10-yard dump trucks will haul material away. This activity will last about two weeks.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.1145 acres of spring habitat and associated herbaceous vegetation such as cattails, tules, moist alkali meadow vegetation, and resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602. No woody stemmed vegetation will be removed as part of this Project. In addition, the installation of the berm at Keeler spring will result in 0.0713 acres of permanent impacts to resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602. This Agreement authorizes a total impact of 0.1858 acres to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption: Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section (15301)

Reasons why Project is exempt: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, this Project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15301, Class 1. Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The proposed Project meets the requirements of these exemptions; therefore, no further CEQA review is required.

CDFW Contact Person: Bryant Luu, Environmental Scientist, Email: Bryant.Luu@Wildlife.ca.gov, Phone: (909) 544-1334.

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Signature: Alisa Ellsworth
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Date: 7/3/2024

Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

