

**Notice of Exemption**



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

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
[R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Project Title:** Sierra Pacific Industries (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-SHA-35823-R1)

**Project Location (Shasta):** The project is located at East Fork Nelson Creek, a tributary to Nelson Creek, in an unincorporated area of Shasta County, California; Latitude 41.03981, Longitude -121.87569; Section 29, Township 37N, Range 01E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Big Bend U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 022-310-023-000.

**Project Description**

The project includes repair of an existing hydroelectric facility structure on the East Fork of Nelson Creek in Shasta County, California. The hydroelectric facility operates under a FERC License issued March 11, 1987 (Project No. 9029-000). The entire facility includes two small concrete and rock diversion dams, a 22-inch diameter, 700-foot long steel pipeline that conveys water diverted from East Fork Nelson Creek to the project diversion at West Fork Nelson Creek, a 34-inch diameter, 7,180 foot-long steel penstock, a 1,050 square foot concrete block powerhouse containing turbine-generator units with a combined hydraulic capacity of 50 cubic feet per second (cfs). Erosion has occurred underneath the toe of the smaller concrete and rock diversion dam on the East Fork Nelson Creek, resulting in erosion of the structure. Repairs are required to address the erosion and prevent additional damage to the structure.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sierra Pacific Industries

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption. [State code number]
- Categorical Exemption. Type – **Class 1; Existing Facilities, California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 15301** The operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

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**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project is for the repairs of an existing facility. No expansion is proposed for this project.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Dyana Judnick (Environmental Scientist),  
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DocuSigned by:  
*Adam McKannay*  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8/29/2024  
Adam McKannay, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_