

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764

County Clerk
County of: _____

(Address)

Project Title: Camp Cady Wildlife Area Pond Rehabilitation Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Project Location - Specific:

Coordinates Latitude:34.936611, Longitude:-116.609439

Project Location - City: Newberry Springs Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

CDFW will conduct pond rehabilitation activities on CDFW lands at Camp Cady Wildlife Area for the purposes of improving the habitat for endangered species; Mojave tui chub and Western pond turtle.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CCR Title 14 Section 15304 and 15333
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Bjana Jefferson Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 678-2560

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 No

Signature: Richard Kim Date: 12/06/2024 Title: Sr. Environmental Scientist

DocuSigned by: Richard Kim

9DA5602712C84C1
Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Attachment to Notice of Exemption

Camp Cady Wildlife Area Pond Rehabilitation Project

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will replace the liner of a small pond at Camp Cady Wildlife Area (CCWA). The existing liner is compromised and does not reliably hold water. The pond is currently 0.6 acres, and this Project will allow the pond to be expanded to one acre in size and relined with new bentonite clay. This rehabilitation effort is crucial for restoring the habitat of the Mojave tui chub and Western pond turtle; both native species which rely on stable aquatic environments for their survival. By utilizing bentonite clay, the Project addresses the immediate issue of the compromised liner and ensures sustainable habitat for these endangered species. The successful completion of this project will contribute to the conservation efforts at CCWA, promote biodiversity and support the overall health of the ecosystem. CDFW approved the Project relying on the Class 4 and Class 33 Categorical Exemptions. (CEQA Guidelines, 15304 and 15333.) Each exemption as relevant to the Project is discussed below.

Class 4 Categorical Exemption

The project is Class 4, 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land) exempt; the Project will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation. The Project falls within the class because it involves minor public alteration to land on a designated wildlife area and does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The CEQA Guidelines provide the specific example of “minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production” at section 15304 (d) as being consistent with this class.

Class 33 Categorical Exemption

The project is Class 33, 15333 (Small habitat restoration projects) exempt; the Project will result in a small habitat restoration. The Project falls within the class because it does not exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. The Project includes actions taken by CDFW where “there would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065.”