

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:**

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

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Inland Deserts Region 6  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
Contact: Enola Fulgencio



**Project Title:** Vail Dam Spillway Maintenance (Notification of Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-RIV-47609-R6)

**Project Location (Riverside):** The Vail Dam Spillway Maintenance Project (Project) is located east of Interstate 15 (I-15), north of State Route 79 (SR-79), adjacent to Oak Mountain Road, in unincorporated area of Riverside County, east of the City of Temecula, state of California and is located at Latitude 33.494706 and Longitude - 116.976973 within Township 8 South and Range 1 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5" Vail Lake quadrangle map. Assessor Parcel Number 927-320-039.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Routine Maintenance Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-RIV-47609-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Rancho California Water District (Permittee).

The Project is limited to an initial clearing of vegetated growth and then seasonal removal and maintenance of vegetation within the spillway of Vail Lake Dam to prevent spillway jams during storm events, to ensure that the spillway can safely pass flows that may cause erosion, and to allow for clear inspection of the dam and spillway, as required by the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). A total Project area of 1.73 acres of riparian habitat adjacent to Vail Lake will be included in the vegetation removal and maintenance. Vegetation will be trimmed to the minimum level necessary to allow access for inspection of the dam and spillway. Trees and shrubs will be trimmed down to grade; root systems will remain in place to minimize soil disturbance. All trimmings will be removed from the spillway and disposed of properly. Vegetation clearing and weed control methods will be completed using hand tools, mechanical cutters, shredders, string trimmers, chainsaws, wood chippers and lawn mowers. Each maintenance event is expected to be completed in 2 to 5 days.

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

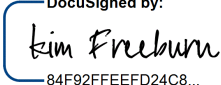
**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Rancho California Water District, as represented by Thomas Alexander Greene, [greenet@ranchowater.com](mailto:greenet@ranchowater.com)

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1, §15301(h) and (m), Existing Facilities

**Reasons why project is exempt:** *Class 1, §15301(h) and (m), Existing Facilities:* The project is exempt under Class 1 because it consists of the operation, maintenance, repair, or minor alteration of a facility involving no expansion of former use, including maintenance of native growth and minor repairs to existing dams and appurtenant structures.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Enola Fulgencio (Environmental Scientist), 909-544-2520,  
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DocuSigned by:  
  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/10/2025  
Kim Freeburn, Environmental Program Manager

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