

Notice of Exemption

To:

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

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Paulsell Lateral Expansion Siphon Replacement Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-STA-51605-R4)

Project Location (Stanislaus County): The Project is located at three sites, in Fahey Creek and in two unnamed tributaries to Fahey Creek in the vicinity of the town of Paulsell, Stanislaus County, State of California.

Site 1 is located in Fahey Creek, approximately 360 feet south of Warnerville Road; coordinates 37.738906, -120.694205; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 011-005-073.

Site 2 is located in an unnamed tributary to Fahey Creek, approximately 975 feet south of Warnerville Road; coordinates 37.737162, -120.687241; APN 011-005-064.

Site 3 is located in an unnamed tributary to Fahey Creek, adjacent to Tim Bell Road and approximately 1,300 feet south of the intersection of Tim Bell Road and Warnerville Road; coordinates 37.79027, -120.683327; APN 011-005-066.

Project Description: Pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has issued Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-STA-51605-R4 (Agreement) to the Applicant, Oakdale Irrigation District.

The Project includes activities related to the replacement of three siphons of the existing Paulsell Lateral within Fahey Creek and two unnamed tributaries to Fahey Creek. The Project is part of infrastructure improvements for the Paulsell Lateral to increase its capacity, in support of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency's groundwater sustainability efforts. Construction will be completed using open trench methods to remove existing features and install the replacement siphons. At each site, a pre-cast Rubber Gasketed Reinforced Concrete Pipe will be constructed by cutting a trench through the creek, placing pipe bedding, placing the pipeline in the trench, and backfilling and compacting the trench.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Oakdale irrigation District

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption.

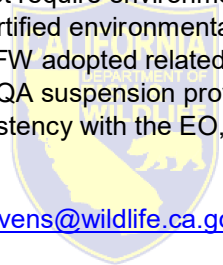
Categorical Exemption.

CEQA is suspended (see below)

Reasons why project is exempt: CDFW's issuance of an Agreement is generally subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and its implementing regulations; however, the Agreement is currently suspended from CEQA per Executive Order N-7-22 (EO). Paragraph 13 of the EO states that CEQA and its implementing regulations are suspended for the following, to the extent necessary to address the impacts of drought: (1) specified actions taken by state agencies and specified actions taken by a local agency where the Department of Water Resources concurs that local action is required; and (2) any permits necessary to carry out actions under (1). Actions under (1) are recharge projects under either Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge or the Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program occurring on open

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and working lands to replenish and store water in groundwater basins that will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought. infrastructure improvements intended to reduce groundwater pumping to help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, CEQA and its implementing regulations do not require environmental review for this Agreement at this point in time. Consequently, CDFW has not reviewed a certified environmental impact report or adopted mitigated negative declaration evaluating this project, nor has CDFW adopted related findings pursuant to CEQA. Similarly, in applying for this permit, Permittee relied on the CEQA suspension provided by Paragraph 13 of the EO. Permittee provided CDFW with documentation of Project consistency with the EO, in the form of Department of Water Resources concurrence with Permittee’s self-certification.



CDFW Contact Person: Clint Stevens, Environmental Scientist; (559) 578-0837; Clint.Stevens@wildlife.ca.gov.

DocuSigned by:
Julie Vance
Signature: _____ Date: 4/25/2025
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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____