

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:  Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tulare County Clerk  
Room 105, Courthouse  
221 South Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93291

Lead Agency: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000  
Attn: [gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

Applicant(s): Jon Christensen and Ursula Heise  
2111 Glencoe Avenue  
Venice, CA 90921 (650) 759-6534

Project Title: Ecological Restoration Project – Kenedy Meadows (CEQ 25-005)

**Project Location - Specific:** APNs 310-140-020, -037 and -038; on south side of Windy Springs Road approximately 1 mile east of Kennedy Meadows Road (Sherman Pass Road). The proposed Project is approximately 2.2 acres on private property and is surrounded by federal (Bureau of Land Management) land within the South Fork Kern watershed in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range of southeastern Tulare County.

**Project Location- Section, Township, Range:** Section 08, Township 22, Range 36E

**Project Location - City:** Kennedy Meadows **Project Location - County:** Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The proposed Project is designed to restore the ecological form and function of Windy Springs meadow and the associated springs and intermittent tributary to increase resilience to climate change and wildfire. Objectives of the proposed Project include removing infrastructure from the springs, meadow, and spring outflow channel that alter hydrology; controlling invasive plants; expanding cover of culturally significant, wildfire resistant, and climate resilient plants; enhancing habitat for aquatic, wetland, and riparian-dependent species; and decreasing sediment mobilized from road drainages. Implementing the proposed Project will provide ecological and social benefits including: restoring hydrologic and geomorphic function, increasing groundwater storage, slowing floodwaters, expanding the wetland buffer to wildfire spread, sequestering carbon through development of meadow soils and vegetation, identifying existing and future wildlife habitat and developing strategies to restore habitat resiliency, engaging tribal members, and providing educational opportunities for college students and others.

**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));
- Common Sense Exemption: CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 13 Section 15313 Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife**
- Statutory Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies


**Reasons why project is exempt:** This action is consistent with Section 15313 Class 13, Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife because Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes including (a) preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, (b) establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and (c) preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15313 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

**Environmental Assessment Officer:** Reed Schenke, P.E., RMA Director/EAO

FILED TULARE COUNTY
MAY 8 2025
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

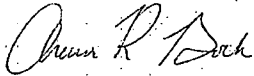
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Planner/Representative: Jason Garcia-LoBue, MPA, Planning & Permit Manager Telephone: (559) 624-7123

Signature:   
Gary A. Mills

Date: 5/7/2025

Title: Chief Planner,  
Environmental Planning Division

Signature:  For  
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

Date: 5.7.25

Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: \_\_\_\_\_