Docusign Envelope ID: 3D15F51F-81A9-49DB-BD6D-E7DA21B39F3C

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Conservation Board
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Adam Ballard

Project Title: Pickel Meadow Restoration

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

Along the south side of HWY108, approximately 5 miles west of Sonora Junction. Latitude 38.34954, Longitude -119.53237. APN 006-050-011-000.

Project Location – City: Approximately 22 miles northwest of Bridgeport

Project Location – County: Mono

CEQA Region: N. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

The project is designed to reconnect the West Walker River to its historic alluvial fan and floodplain to restore hydrologic function, improve channel complexity and aquatic habitat, and prevent further incision and erosion throughout the project area. The project will also protect a spring from further degradation through installation of wildlife-friendly fencing. The existing parking area will be relocated closer to Highway 108, more appropriately scaled to the level of use, and upgraded to an ADA-compliant design. In addition, upgrades to the CDFW diversion structure will maintain more reliable wetland conditions in the upper part of Pickel Meadow with less impacts on fish. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025067.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:
- ☑ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number: Public Resources Code Section 21080.56
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

The Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rebecca J. Fris

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 212-5637

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, (by this notice) ☐ No

Signature: Signed by: Rebecca J. Fris 1EAD9B041E6D478... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 12/1/2025

☑ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

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

SCH #: 2025030260
Posted Date:
Date Received for Filing at OPR:

ec: WCB Project Tracker
WCB Board Meeting Folder