

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 and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

FILED TULARE COUNTY
MAR 3 2026
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

Project Title: Ecological Restoration Project – Kenedy Meadows

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 Census Designated Place (CDP) **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 tributaries 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 33 Section 15333 Small Habitat Restoration Projects**
- Statutory Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Section 15333 Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects because Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that:

- (a) There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065,
- (b) There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed, and
- (c) The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.
- (d) Examples of small restoration projects may include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species;
 - (2) wetland restoration, the primary purpose of which is to improve conditions for waterfowl or other species that rely on wetland habitat;
 - (3) stream or river bank revegetation, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat for amphibians or native fish;
 - (4) projects to restore or enhance habitat that are carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.
 - (5) stream or river bank stabilization with native vegetation or other bioengineering techniques, the primary purpose of which is to reduce or eliminate erosion and sedimentation; and
 - (6) culvert replacement conducted in accordance with published guidelines of the Department of Fish and Game or NOAA Fisheries, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat or reduce sedimentation.

Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15333 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

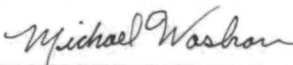
Project Planner/Representative: Jason Garcia-LoBue

Telephone: (559) 624-7123

Signature: 
 Gary A. Mills

Date: 3/2/2026

Title: Chief Planner,
Environmental Planning Division

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

Date: 3/2/2026

Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: _____