

## Notice of Exemption

<b>To:</b> Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814  <b>County Clerk (County of):</b> N/A	<b>From:</b> Department of Fish and Wildlife <b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b> P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 99244-2090  <b>Attention:</b> Kurt Malchow
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**Project Title:** Indian Springs Meadow Restoration Maintenance Project

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**  
 Project site is a 4.2 acre mesic meadow composed of perennial sedges and annual grasses, located in the Mi-Wok Ranger District of Stanislaus National Forest. APN: 052-170-003 and 052-170-004.

**Project Location – City:** N/A

**Project Location – County:** Tuolumne

**CEQA Region:** Unincorporated

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**  
 Wet Meadow Springs is a 4 acre dry-to-mesic meadow composed of perennial sedges and annual grasses, located in the Mi-Wok Ranger District of Stanislaus National Forest. This project aims to move this previously restored meadow in the 2013 Rim Fire footprint towards a trend of ecological health that is self-sustaining through restoration maintenance activities. Primary actions of this project include: fencing repair around the perimeter of the meadow, invasive plant removal, native seed dispersal, placement of large woody debris on the meadow surface, and encroaching conifer removal. Repairing the livestock enclosure fence will prevent cattle from damaging sensitive restoration sites. Manually removing invasive plants and spreading appropriate native seeds will help to restore meadow specific native plants to the area, which will stabilize vulnerable soils, and improve diversity and resilience of native plants that will benefit pollinators and wildlife in the area that depend on meadow forage for food and shelter. Removal of small conifers that are encroaching in the meadow will increase water availability for wet meadow-dependent species. (WCB Project Tracker ID: 2022089).

**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: CCR Section 15333 (small habitat restoration); 15301; 15304  
 Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:  
 Other:

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**  
 This project is exempt under CCR Section 15333 because the project aims to restore meadow habitat, which would benefit pollinators, wildlife, and plants. The project treatment does not exceed 5 acres in size or 500 linear feet of stream bank.

**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:** *Rebecca J. Fris* **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 5/15/2025

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	<b>SCH #:</b> <b>Posted Date:</b> <b>Date Received for Filing at OPR:</b>
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