

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: Kurt Malchow

Project Title: Wet Meadow Springs Restoration Maintenance Project

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

Project site is a 4 acre wet meadow composed of perennial sedges and annual grasses, located in the Mi-Wok Ranger District of Stanislaus National Forest. APN: 520-102-600.

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 wet 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 maintenance of previously installed post-assisted log structures in the meadow stream channel (a tributary to Hull Creek), 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. Reinforcement of post-assisted log structures will address headcuts and prevent further channel incision, which will improve the hydrologic function of the meadow and add complexity to the channel. Repairing the currently nonfunctional 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. (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:

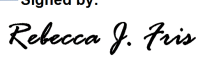
Reasons why this project is exempt:

This project is exempt under CCR Section 15333 because the project aims to restore meadow habitat, which would benefit pollinators, wildlife, and plants and the project treatment does not exceed 5 acres in size or 500 linear feet of stream bank. The fencing aspect of this project is exempt under CCR Section 15301 because it will restore the existing fence line to a functional status and will not expand the footprint of the fence. Lastly,

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*

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

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