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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
(559) 243-4005
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

To:
Office of Planning and Research
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: A proposal to expand reintroductions of the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) in Humphreys Basin, Sierra National Forest

Project Location (Fresno County): The Project will occur at several locations depending on activities conducted.

Donor Sites: Sierra National Forest, unnamed lake, Latitude (Lat) 37.2552, Longitude (Long) -118.7170; Kings Canyon National Park, McGee Lakes, Lat 37.1585, Long -118.7232; Kings Canyon National Park, unnamed lake, Lat 37.1966, Long -118.7211.

Receiving Sites: Knob Lake. Lat 37.2667, Long -118.7483; Square Lake, Lat 37.2661, Long -118.7270; Marmot Lake, Lat 37.2601, Long -118.6838; unnamed lake, Lat 37.2493, Long -118.6877; unnamed lake, Lat 37.2467, Long -118.6874.

Captive Rearing Site: Oakland Zoo, Oakland, CA.

Project Description: The proposed recovery actions include (1) wild tadpoles and adults from “Trapdoor Pond” in Humphreys Basin that are directly translocated to the recipient sites within the basin, and (2) tadpoles collected from “Trapdoor Pond” and a two donor populations in the adjacent Kings Canyon National Park (“Hermit Lake”, “Darwin Bench Ponds”), reared to adulthood at the Oakland Zoo, and subsequently reintroduced to the recipient sites within Humphryes Basin. Collections for both direct translocation and captive rearing will occur in 2025 and 2026, captively reared adults will be released in 2026 and 2027. All collections (for both the translocation and captive rearing efforts) will represent less than 10% of the associated life stage present at each site at the time of collection. The proposal follows other translocation efforts within Humphreys Basin and successful programs for SNYLF and other California Endangered Species Act listed endangered anurans that the Zoo and partners have developed since 2013 (and supported by a long-term Memorandum of Understanding between the Zoo and CDFW). Zoo experts will rear the tadpoles through metamorphosis and release adult frogs the following year. The frogs will not be held at the Zoo for longer than one year.

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Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Dr. Roland A. Knapp
University of California Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab
roland.knapp@ucsb.edu

Exempt Status:

☐ Statutory Exemption.

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 7 Categorical Exemption applies to proposed "actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources" projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, 21000 et seq.). The proposed project involves re-establishing populations of an endangered species to historically occupied locations, which is required to achieve recovery. The Project is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the environment.

CDFW Contact Person: Margarita Gordus, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor) (559) 207-6681, Margarita.Gordus@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Julie Vance FA83F09FE08945A... *Date:* 6/23/2025

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____