

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): Calif. Dept. of Water Resources
Northern Region Office
2440 Main St., Red Bluff, CA 96080

(Address)

Project Title: Statewide Monitoring Network Modernization Project: Chagoopa Plateau Station Upgrades

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific:

Sequoia National Park approximately 22.5 miles southwest of the town of Lone Pine (36.49714, -118.44672)

Project Location - City: Sequoia National Park Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

DWR proposes to upgrade outdated data collection equipment and replace a 17-foot wilderness pole at the Chagoopa Plateau hydrometeorological station with a galvanized hinged fold tilt pole anchored to a buried ballast tray base (8.5'x8.5'x16"), which would be transported by helicopter. Soil probes would also be installed within 30 feet of the station by excavating a 3'x3'x3' temporary soil pit and shallow conduit trench from the station to the probes. The proposed tilt pole would also address potential safety concerns with ongoing maintenance activities at the station.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

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));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sect. 15302, 5304, and 15306 (see below)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Proposed activities would replace and upgrade existing outdated data collection equipment at the existing hydrometeorological station. Temporary excavations would be necessary for the installation of the folding tilt pole and soil probes. Proposed activities will not result in a significant impact to the environment and none of the exceptions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. Proposed activities qualify for categorical exemptions 15302. Replacement or Reconstruction, 15304. Minor Alterations to Land, and 15306. Information Collection.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Brian Humphrey Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-317-8623

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 No

Signature: Brian Humphrey Date: 7/30/2026 Title: Sr. Environmental Scientist

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____