Notice of Exemption **Form D**

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95603
(Public Agency and Address)

☒ County Clerk, County of: Placer

Project Title: Ralston Afterbay Sediment Removal and Trash Rack Installation Project

Project Location - Specific: The Project is located on U.S. Forest Service lands within the Tahoe National Forest, approximately 5 miles southeast of Foresthill, California in Section 3, Township 13N, Range 11E on the U.S. Geological Survey Michigan Bluff 7 ½ minute quad, Mount Diablo Meridian. The Project area includes the western end of Ralston Afterbay, near the dam located on Forest Road 23.

Project Location - City: Unincorporated area of Foresthill **Project Location - County:** Placer

Description of Project: In 2022, the Mosquito fire burned nearly all the surrounding forest around Ralston Afterbay, resulting in accumulation of sediment in front of the Ralston Afterbay Dam, as well as the Ralston–Oxbow Tunnel Intake. This sediment affects the safe operation of the Ralston Afterbay Dam low level outlet (LLO), and operation of Oxbow Powerhouse, which requires water delivery from the Ralston–Oxbow Tunnel Intake. The project includes physical removal (mechanical dredging) of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from Ralston Afterbay in the vicinity of the Ralston Afterbay Dam's Low Level Outlet and the Ralston–Oxbow Tunnel Intake structure. A crane would place 3-5 barges into the Ralston Afterbay and an excavator would be loaded onto one of the barges. Sediment would be placed on remaining barges to allow water to drain off. Removed sediment will be trucked off site to an approved receiving area (EBRL Sediment Disposal Area approximately 10 miles away). Once sediment is removed, the existing steel trash rack will be replaced with a new structural trash rack on the Ralston Afterbay Dam LLO to allow required operation/cycling of the LLO, even with future sedimentation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Placer County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County Water Agency

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: Class 1 (b), Section 15301, Class 4 (c)(g), Section 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemption. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: The project consists of the repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. (Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301 (b)). The project consists of minor public alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation. (Guidelines Article 19, Section 15304 (c) (g).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jon Boland, Associate Engineer **Area Code/ Telephone/Extension:** 530-823-4886

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: Heather Trejo Date: 8/21/25 Title: Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

☐ Signed by Applicant