

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: Sacramento

From: (Public Agency): Department of Water Resources
Division of Multibenefit Initiatives
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Twitchell Island Eco-Cultural Burn Pilot Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific:

The Project is located on Twitchell Island at 38° 5'50.30"N, 121°38'31.28"W. The parcel

Project Location - City: Twitchell Island Project Location - County: Sacramento

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

In collaboration with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), a team of researchers propose to conduct a single 10-acre wetland cultural burn and carbon sequestration research project on Twitchell Island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on a weather-permitting day in January-March 2026. This goal is to reintroduce fire to remove excessive dead biomass to enhance ecosystem function and wetland carbon sequestration on DWR's subsidence reversal wetlands to determine the feasibility and potential to reintroduce ecocultural burning to appropriately manage DWR's Delta wetlands. The burn will be orchestrated by Dr. Don Hankins with CSU Chico, a pyrogeographer and Miwoko (Plains Miwok) cultural practitioner and carbon measurements by Dr. Kyle Delwiche and other researchers from the Biometeorology lab at UC Berkeley and Dr. Patty Oikawa from CSU East Bay. The burn will be done on a day where winds are between 2-8 mph and air quality conditions allow. Contingency lines will be created in advance to ensure the controlled burn is contained and the River Delta Fire Academy is invited to be on site as a training opportunity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DWR & California State University Chico

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, Section 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

DWR fully supports the justification for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA. The cultural burn pilot project is first and foremost a maintenance effort to ensure the long-term health of subsidence reversal wetland habitat. The temporary burning of a 10 acre parcel within the East End wetlands on Twitchell Island does not constitute a significant threat to quality of air or water, does not increase noise or threaten any protected species or the environment at large. Local fire departments will be onsite to assist and monitor these activities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Tyler Anthony Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-460-0400

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: Tyler Anthony Date: 12/3/2025 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

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: _____