



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
wildlife.ca.gov

To: Office of Planning and Research
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Crystal Lake Hatchery Emergency Waterline Repairs Project

Project Location (Shasta): The project is located at Crystal Lake Hatchery, 40158 Baum Lake Road near the community of Cassel; Latitude 40.929955, Longitude -121.543597; Baum Lake.

Project Description: In the fall of 2025, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff discovered that the 24-inch main water supply line to Crystal Lake Hatchery (CLH) was in imminent threat of failure over Baum Lake. Approximately 80 feet of the waterline is supported by a steel cable suspension bridge over Baum Lake. To ensure the continued safe operation of the hatchery and maintain water supply, CDFW will be replacing the bridge structure and waterline suspended over Baum Lake. The project consists of full replacement of the existing bridge and waterline, and also includes removal and replacement of the damaged pipe segments and associated mechanical pipe hangers, demolition of an abandoned 16-inch suspended pipeline, and removal of the two steel suspension towers that support the mechanical bridge structure. A new Acrow style modular cantilever launch bridge will be installed and a new 24-inch diameter pipe will run along the bridge deck. All work will be performed without contact with the water surface or disturbance to Baum Lake or its banks.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Brian Rushton
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Senior Hatchery Supervisor
(530) 926-2215
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3 North Old Stage Road
Mount Shasta CA 96067

Notice of Exemption
February 23, 2026

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption. Emergency Projects.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269(b) – Emergency repairs to maintain services essential to public health, safety, or welfare

California Code of Regulations, section 15269(c) – Emergency prevention/ mitigation

Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: While there have been no prior issues with the water delivery system, the shift in the waterline was likely due to a sudden and unexpected seismic event. The 24-inch line supplies water for domestic, fire suppression, and fish rearing operations essential to CLH. The project entails specific actions necessary to prevent further emergency actions at CLH. The option to replace the bridge and waterline was chosen because it meets current codes and standards and would ensure the structure is resilient to future seismic activity.

CDFW Contact Person: Brian Rushton, Senior Hatchery Supervisor (530) 926-2215

Signature:  Date: 2/24/2026
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Jason Roberts, Inland Fisheries Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____