



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
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director



To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Off-Site Restoration Plan at Pixley National Wildlife Refuge (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-TUL-55668-R4)

Project Location (Tulare): The Project will occur in Deer Creek, within the west half of the largest unit of the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 0.40 mile west of Road 80, 0.50 mile north of Deer Creek Avenue, and 1 mile east Highway 43, approximately 6.5 miles southwest of the community of Pixley and 6.9 miles northwest of the community of Earlimart, southwest Tulare County; in the central portions of Sections 20 and 21, Township 23 South, Range 24 East; USGS 7.5-Minute Quad Alpaugh, MDBM; from upstream point 35.913369, -119.383081, to 35.913153, -119.404; Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 313-010-004-000, 313-060-008-000, and 313-060-007-000.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification No. EPIMS-TUL-55668-R4, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code, to County of Tulare, a political subdivision of the State of California, for the Resource Management Agency.

The Project includes planting activities to mitigate for the removal of trees and other vegetation during bridge removal and replacement activities as authorized by Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-TUL-35047-R4 for the *M109 over White River Bridge Replacement Project*. Activities will consist of planting 234 trees, 80 shrubs, and 50 herbaceous plants in an approximately 22-acre area along Deer Creek. The Project will be completed during a work season of January 1 to February 1. Requirements for successful establishment of the plantings are described in and enforced through Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-TUL-35047-R4.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
County of Tulare, a political subdivision of the State of California, for the Resource Management Agency
Hernan Beltran
Chief Engineer

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
EPIMS-TUL-55668-R4

(559) 624-7000

rma@tularecounty.ca.gov

5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93277

Exempt Status: On October 1, 2024, the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15304. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), the Lead Agency is responsible for determining whether the Project is exempt from CEQA and that determination shall be final and conclusive on all persons, including Responsible Agencies. As a result, CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, is bound by the Lead Agency's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA..

CDFW Contact Person: Jim Kitch (Environmental Scientist), (559) 580-3198,
James.Kitch@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Julie Vance
Signature: _____ Date: 4/21/2026
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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: _____