

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): CA Dept. Water Resources
3320 El Camino Avenue, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95821

County Clerk
County of: _____

(Address)

Project Title: Statewide Monitoring Network Modernization - Lower Kibbie Ridge Station

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Location - Specific:

Yosemite National Park: 38.033015, -119.879245

Project Location - City: Mather Project Location - County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

DWR is proposing to install soil sensor probes at the existing Lower Kibbie Ridge hydrometeorological station. Installation of the soil probes would require the excavation of a 3' x 3 x 3' pit where probes would be installed to collect soil moisture data. The soil probes would be connected to the existing station with buried cables in conduit, which would require trenching 5" wide x 6" deep up to 100' in length. The soil pit and trench would be excavated using hand tools and backfilled appropriately into their soil horizons after installation is complete.

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: 15301, 15304, 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed soil probes would provide real-time data made publicly available through the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) website, would not involve negligible expansion of existing use, and would result in temporary minor ground disturbance. Proposed activities qualify for categorical exemptions 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land), and 15306 (Information Collection). 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. Furthermore, proposed activities would not require the use of heavy equipment.

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: 4/28/2026 Title: Sr. Environ. 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: _____