



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: LSJLD Critical Erosion Repairs Project - Site 2 (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-MER-62428-R4)

Project Location (Merced): The Project is located within and adjacent to the Eastside Bypass approximately 6 miles southeast of the community of Steveson, south of State Route 140 and east of State Route 165, in Merced County; Section 8, Township 8 South, Range 11 East; USGS 7.5 Minute Quad Map Stevinson MDB&M; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 049-190-015-000; Latitude 37.25270, Longitude -120.79258.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-MER-62428-R4, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

Project activities include stabilizing an eroding bank along the western slope of the Eastside Bypass levee with rock slope protection, to protect the bank from further erosion and to protect the levee.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Shane Swartz
Lower San Joaquin Levee District
Phone: (559) 400-2077
Shane@lsjld.org
11704 West Henery Avenue
Dos Palos, California 93620

Exempt Status: On August 13, 2024, the Lower San Joaquin Levee District, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15302. 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

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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: Jackson Powell (Environmental Scientist), (559) 899-9758, and Jackson.Powell@wildlife.ca.gov.

DocuSigned by:
Julie Vance
Signature: _____ **Date:** 4/2/2026
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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: