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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Bi-State Sagebrush Enhancement Project, HREA # 1652-2026-091-001-R6

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through its Inland Deserts Region has taken final action to execute the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA) Approval between the State of California, CDFW, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Walker Basin Conservancy to enhance in-stream habitat and improve sagebrush associated wet-meadow and mesic habitat to promote greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) recovery efforts in the Rough Creek watershed by utilizing low-tech process based restoration techniques such as beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures, and Zuni bowl/Zeedyk structures; removal of encroaching pinyon-juniper woodland communities; reconstructing a diversion structure and associated irrigation ditch; and converting fencing into wildlife friendly fence. In taking its final agency action for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), CDFW executes this Approval relying on the categorical exemption for the Class 33 Categorical Exemption, respectively. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ section 15333.) Each exemption relevant to the Project is discussed below.

Class 33 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15333, the exemption for "Small Habitat Restoration Projects". Class 33, as relevant here, consists of projects that do not exceed five acres in size to ensure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish plants, or wildlife. The Project falls within the class because it involves restoration and enhancement of Halfway Creek, Rough Creek, and associated meadows for Lahontan cutthroat trout and greater sage-grouse habitat and will be roughly 4.09 acres in size. This exemption is applicable because the project includes enhancing instream habitat and improving sagebrush-associated wet meadow and mesic habitat and would not be significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.