

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Mono

From: (Public Agency): Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Lahontan
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(Address)

Project Title: Lower Sardine Meadow Adaptive Management Project

Project Applicant: Aaron Coogan, U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Project Location - Specific:

The Project is located on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe Natio

Project Location - City: Bridgeport Project Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this Project is to perform adaptive management in Lower Sardine Creek Meadow, a tributary to the West Walker River, to improve long-term meadow stability and ecological function. Impacts resulting from historical grazing, road construction, and recreational use have resulted in concentrated flow, channel incision, reduced floodplain connectivity, and altered the meadows natural hydrology. While a previous restoration project successfully addressed large-scale incision and hydrologically reconnected portions of the meadow, it did not plan for adaptive management actions. Post-Project monitoring and site visits since construction have identified several localized areas where additional adjustments will improve overall meadow performance.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: RWQCB, Lahontan Region

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sarah Hecocks, American Rivers

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: 15333, Small Habitat Restoration
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

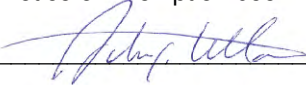
The RWQCB, Lahontan Region finds that this project, as permitted, will not have a significant effect on the environment and shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Meghan Walsh Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530 542-5419)

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:  Date: 06/09/2026 Title: Executive Officer

■ 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: _____