

CEQA # 14539
Project # 390-2025-01



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Sierra District
P.O. Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142

PROJECT TITLE: Washoe Meadows State Park Quarry Site Wetland Enhancement

LOCATION: Washoe Meadows State Park **COUNTY:** El Dorado

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Convert approx. 56,000 sq. ft. or 1.28 acres of a former gravel quarry site within Washoe Meadows State Park to wetland habitat to restore the physical and biological functions of this degraded former wetland to its natural state. Work will:

- Use heavy equipment to remove approx. 200 Jeffrey and lodgepole pine trees (6-8-in. DBH) that are growing on imported fill material;
- Remove approx. 8,000 cu. yds. of imported fill with varied excavation depths of no more than 7-ft deep to leave low areas for standing water and high areas to provide islands for wildlife habitat;
- Construct an additional two (2) intermittent islands for wildlife habitat and preserve islands with existing Jeffrey pines and sagebrush;
- Construct three (3) to four (4) Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs);
- Improve the existing low water crossing over the adjacent service road that runs south and east of the site; and
- Hand spread/apply a native seed mix to all graded/excavated areas as directed by the DPR-approved specialist to facilitate re-vegetation of wetland vegetation on the graded areas.

Project work will use 10-yard dump trucks, bulldozer, excavator, skid steer, and loader to excavate, grade, and off-haul the excavated fill material. Equipment staging will occur on approx. 9,600 sq. ft. of existing area routinely used for such purposes. Access to the site will be from the Chilcothe St. gate using existing service roads. All excavated materials will be hauled off and delivered to a specified offsite location for Washoe Tribal use. All project activities will occur during fall when the adjacent wetland and fen are dry. No jurisdictional waters will be impacted as all excavation and grading will occur to the limits of the existing delineated wetland and not within the wetland area; and no equipment access or project activities will occur in the existing wetland.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sierra District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption *Class:* 1, 3 & 4 *Section:* 15301, 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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6/15/2026

Greg Martin
Desert Division Chief
Acting District Superintendent
Sierra District

DATE