

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From (Public Agency): California Department of Water
Resources –
691 N. Laverne Ave. Suite 104
Fresno, CA 93727

Online posting

Project Title: Owens Creek Stream Gauge Vegetation Removal
Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Location - Specific: Owens Creek near Eastside Bypass and Crane Ranch, Station ID B06114, Merced County (37.219231°, -120.699189°). Township 08S Range 12E Section 19. The stream gauge is located on the left bank.

Project Location - City: Merced, California

Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Hand tools and a weed eater will be used to remove vegetation from the bubbler line and staff gauge within the dry channel of the Owens Creek. Vegetation will also be removed 10 feet up- and downstream of the Owens Creek stream gauge station from the levee road down to the current waterline. The work is necessary to maintain access to the station and for proper operation of the station. Local farmers, residents, and local jurisdictions will benefit.

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); Click or tap here to enter text.
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); Click or tap here to enter text.
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)); Click or tap here to enter text.
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301. Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Reasons why project is exempt:

Work involves vegetation removal to maintain access to and operation of the station. There will be no expansion of the stream gauge. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) apply. No sensitive biological or cultural resources have been identified in the area.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Hoss Aghazeynali

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-547-1159

1. Signature: Hossein Aghazeynali Date: 7/22/2026 Title: Senior Engineer, Water Resources

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

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: _____