



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Region 1- Northern
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Redding, CA 96001
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To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Jewett Creek Remediation Project Phase 2 (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-TEH-68632-R1)

Project Location (Shasta County): The project is located at Tehama County assessor's parcel number (APN) 061-320-002-000 located on Jewett Creek, tributary to the Sacramento River, in Tehama County, State of California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-TEH-68632-R1, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Stephen Soske.

The Project is intended to remediate damages incurred to fish and wildlife resources resulting from Fish and Game Code violations documented within Jewett Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento River. The project consists of the following activities:

- A floodplain conveyance improvement will be constructed by excavating an approximately 1,100-foot-long channel encouraging flow from North Branch Jewett Creek into the south branch to re-establish the pre-violation flow regime. The conveyance channel will have an approximate width of 70 feet, depth of two feet, and side slopes set at ten percent. Material will be graded to match surrounding topography including irregularities occurring along the south bank of the North Branch to establish a consistent longitudinal grade from upstream to downstream. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of earthen material will be excavated to create the channel, the majority of which will be transported for disposal in an upland location outside the floodplain. A portion of this material may be utilized to construction an

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earthen berm necessary to ensure proper functioning of the channel.

- A new berm will be constructed for approximately 400 linear feet, originating at the upstream end of the remaining berm near the power lines and extending upstream. The berm will be constructed 15 feet away from the top of the stream bank. The improvement is intended to prevent floodwaters from re-entering the North Branch near the bifurcation. Instead, these floodwaters will be directed toward the South Branch through the excavated channel. The berm will be approximately 14 feet wide at the toe, 2.5 feet tall, and 400 feet long, requiring approximately 330 cubic yards of material placement. The volume estimate is subject to increase based on final berm topwidth and construction means & methods.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Stephen Soske
Jewett Creek Remediation Phase 2
sesoske@gmail.com
P.O. Box 412
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption.

Class 4, Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304. Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

Class 8; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15308. Actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of minor grading which does not remove healthy, mature scenic trees, and activities intended to remediate Fish and Game Code violations.

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CDFW Contact Person: Matthew Mitchell, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 530-782-2942, matthew.mitchell@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Adam McKannay
Signature: BE359DC694B14AE... Date: 9/17/2026

Adam McKannay, Habitat Conservation Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI:



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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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September 15, 2026

**ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Jewett Creek Remediation Phase 2 Project
Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, No. EPIMS-TEH-68632-R1**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through its Northern Region Habitat Conservation Program has taken final action to execute the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) between the State of California, CDFW and Stephen Soske for activities intended to remediate Fish and Game Code violations by restoring hydrologic connectivity between the north and south branches of Jewett Creek. In taking its final agency action for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), CDFW executes this Agreement relying on the categorical exemption for the Class 4 and Class 8 Categorical Exemptions, respectively. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ section 15304, section 15308). Each exemption relevant to the Project is discussed below.

Class 4 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304, the exemption for "minor alteration of land". Class 4, as relevant here, consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Project falls within the class because it involves minor grading and excavation on land with less than 10 percent slope and does not require the removal of scenic, mature trees or otherwise result in a significant effect on the environment. In brief summary, these activities include:

- Creation of a high-water conveyance channel connecting north and south branches of Jewett Creek.
- Creation of an earthen berm to encourage high flows to enter the conveyance channel.

Class 8 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15308, the exemption for "actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or

enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment".

Class 8, as relevant here, consists of remediation and restoration of a natural resource adversely affected by violations of Fish and Game Code conducted by the landowner. The unauthorized creation of an earthen berm and excavation within the north branch of Jewett Creek resulted in hydrologic discontinuity with south branch Jewett Creek. Subsequent evaluations performed by Pacific Hydrologic, Incorporated and Gregory Engineering indicated that removal of the berm is insufficient to restore historic hydrologic connectivity to south branch, and that additional remediation work is necessary. The current proposed project is intended to further facilitate flow through creation of a conveyance channel and berm to direct high flows from the north branch to the south branch.

Neither action will result in adverse effects to fish and wildlife resources with implementation of the protective measures included in the Agreement.