

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: Butte

155 Nelson Avenue

Oroville, CA 95965

From: (Public Agency): Western Canal Water District
2003 Nelson Road
Nelson, CA 95958

(Address)

Project Title: Muchos Patos Habitat Restoration

Project Applicant: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU)

Project Location - Specific:

Seven Mile Lane & Nelson Road, Butte County. 39°32'16.37"North and 121°53'47.09W

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Butte and Glenn

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will restore wetland and wetland-associated upland habitats on a property that is being protected by a federal conservation easement to provide improved habitats for waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, neotropical migratory landbirds, and other wildlife. It includes conducting a topographic survey, preparing a habitat restoration design, securing necessary permits, conducting earthwork to restore wetland and upland topography, installing lift pumps and pipelines and other water control structures, and planting native trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbaceous species to restore habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Western Canal Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nathan Key (NRCS) and John Ranlett (DU)

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: 15304, Class 4, item (d)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

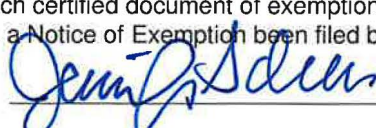
Reasons why project is exempt:

The Muchos Patos restoration project will restore wetland and upland topography across the 571-acre conservation easement site that will restore habitat conditions for migratory birds and other wildlife. There will be no significant adverse impact to endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site. There will be no adverse effects to historical resources. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The project will have no significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Jenny Scheer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530 342-5083

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: 9/15/2026 Title: General Manager

☒ 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: _____