

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Land Use and Climate  
Innovation  
1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Online posting

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

**Project Location - Specific:** The Deer Creek stream gauge at Highway 99 near Earlimart (DNE) is east of Highway 99, northeast of the City of Earlimart and located on the right bank of the Deer Creek. Township 23S Range 25E Section 21 (35.913974°, -119.284027°).

**Project Location - City:** Earlimart, California

Project Location - County: Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Hand tools and a weed eater will be used to remove vegetation within the dry channel, from the levee road to the current waterline, and 10 feet upstream and downstream of the station. The work is to maintain proper access to and operation of the station. Local farmers, residents, and local jurisdictions will benefit from monitoring stream flow and flood warning.

**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, and no healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed. Categorical Exemption 15301 (Existing Facilities) apply. No sensitive biological or cultural resources have been identified in the area.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Alexis Phillips-Dowell

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 916-820-7600

1. Signature: Alexis Phillips-Dowell Date: 9/29/2026 Title: Acting Region Manager

☒ 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: \_\_\_\_\_