

**Notice of Exemption**

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**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
For U.S. Mail:  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1701 Nimbus Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Bear Creek Channel Stabilization and Repair (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0151-R2)

**Project Location:** The project is located at Bear Creek, in the County of Alpine, State of California; Latitude 38.462144°, Longitude -120.039444°; Section 18, Township 7N, Range 18E, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map 'Tamarack', Mount Diablo base and meridian; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 005-470-052.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2019-0151-R2, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the Alpine County Community Development Department, as represented by Brian Peters.

The project is limited to the restoration of a meadow reach that was impacted in October 2018 when Alpine County maintenance staff used a front loader to excavate approximately 107 cubic yards of sediment from an approximately 475-foot-long reach of Bear Creek. The excavation was done in an attempt to increase the flood capacity of the meadow reach following flooding in 2017 and 2018.

Restoration of the meadow reach will include isolation of spoil piles, stabilization of the channel, reconstruction of the stream banks, redistribution of the spoil piles, and revegetation.

Spoil piles from the October 2018 excavation will be isolated and contained using temporary erosion control materials (e.g. sterile straw wattles, coir blankets, and/or coir logs) until bank repair and stabilization activities commence. If spoil piles cannot be adequately contained to prevent discharge into Bear Creek, spoils will be relocated to the paved staging area and protected until bank repair and stabilization activities commence.

To reduce stream flow velocity and provide channel stabilization, biodegradable coir logs will be placed and staked within the channel and generally extending at least three feet past the top of bank on either side of the stream reach. The coir logs will be placed at an interval of about one every 25 feet, commencing at the downstream extent of the reach with the initial coir log installed just upstream of the Highway 4 Caltrans right-of-way. Two-foot wooden stakes will be used to stake the coir logs. The stakes are expected to remain during overwintering and then be removed the following spring, depending on the reestablishment of native vegetation and the stability of the channel. The coir logs will be allowed to decompose in place.

Stream banks will be reconstructed to a 1:1 to 2:1 slope using native spoils materials excavated in 2018. Salvageable vegetative materials will be removed by hand and stockpiled for replanting and the associated spoil materials will be redistributed and compacted by hand or using a mini excavator.

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Native plant materials salvaged from the spoil materials, such as root wads, root balls, seed heads, and persistent live plants, will be replanted along the stream bank and adjacent disturbance area. Willow cuttings will be collected from existing willows and planted in the areas of previous willow growth and (if needed) in sections of streambank exhibiting instability.

Work is proposed to take place during the dry season when flowing water is not present or is avoidable.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying out Project:** Alpine County Community Development Department

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Classes 4 and 33; California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15304 and 15333

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project is exempt under Class 4 because it consists of a minor alteration in the condition of land, water, and vegetation which does not involve the removal of any trees. The project is exempt under Class 33 because it consists of a habitat restoration project under 5 acres in size that will not result in any significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat, will not disturb or remove hazardous materials, and will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with other past, current, and future projects.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Gabriele Quillman, Environmental Scientist, (916) 358-2955

Signature:  Date: 11/14/19  
Jeff Drongesen, Environmental Program Manager

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**