

Notice of Exemption

To:

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

Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:

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



Project Title: Pleasant Grove Canal Diversion Dam (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0286-R2)

Project Location: The project is located at Auburn Ravine, in the County of Placer, State of California; Latitude 38.858268, Longitude -121.386987; Section 26, Township 12N, Range 05E, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map 'Pleasant Grove', Mt. Diablo base and meridian; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 021-140-003-000.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2019-0286-R2, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the Placer County Water Agency as represented by Ben Ransom.

The project is limited to the operation and maintenance of the Pleasant Grove Canal Diversion Dam. The Pleasant Grove Canal Diversion Dam is a seasonal flashboard dam with two trapezoidal abutments connected with a concrete sill. The dam is five to six feet tall and 26 feet wide. The abutments support a flat car bridge. The sill supports a hinged metal I-beam check structure which supports the flashboards, when installed, or lays flat when not in use. The I-beams are held up with pins when the flashboards are installed. A steel headwall and two conical fish screens are located at the entrance to the Pleasant Grove Canal just upstream of the dam. Each screen is placed on a 15-foot by 15-foot pile supported steel base and connected to a 4-foot diameter culvert pipe to convey the screened water into the canal. The purpose of the screens is to prevent entrainment of fish in the canal.

Operations

The Pleasant Grove Canal Diversion Dam diverts 3,000 acre-feet of water annually at a rate of up to 35 cubic feet per second (cfs). Water diversion occurs between April 15 and October 15. Water is diverted into the Pleasant Grove Canal via headgates located in the canal downstream of the fish screen intake. The fish screen intake is on river left, upstream of the diversion. Valves at the diversion are operated frequently during the irrigation season, based on irrigation needs, to regulate the volume of water diverted from Auburn Ravine.

Wooden flashboards are installed annually, after natural high flows recede and no earlier than April 15 and are removed no later than October 15. The exact date of installation depends on flows, weather conditions, and water delivery requirements. The installation and removal of flashboards is conducted by hand using a six- to eight-person team and requires approximately two 8-hour working days. A backhoe, parked and stabilized on the abutments, is used to raise or lower the boards to the installation/removal team.

Notice of Exemption**-2-**Maintenance*Diversion Dam Maintenance/Repair*

The diversion dam and its associated facilities is inspected in the spring prior to the installation of the flashboards, as well as throughout the diversion season. Following inspection, repairs are implemented as necessary. Smaller debris (e.g., leaves, twigs, branches, or trash) that has accumulated on the structure is removed by hand/with hand tools, as necessary. Organic debris is typically allowed to flush downstream, where appropriate. Trash is removed from the channel and transported off-site for disposal.

Sediment Removal

Fine sediments that have accumulated at the dam during the non-irrigation season are removed in the spring. The amount of sediment removed annually is estimated as a maximum of 3 cubic yards. Sediment removal occurs during low water and is conducted by hand with shovels. Sediment is stockpiled in upland areas away from Auburn Ravine.

Large Debris Removal

A backhoe or excavator may be used to remove larger debris (e.g. fallen trees). The backhoe or excavator is parked on the abutments and a boom or bucket is lowered into the water to grasp and remove the debris, which is then either placed in upland areas away from the Auburn Ravine Channel (e.g., as a wildlife enhancement) or transported off-site for disposal as appropriate.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management is conducted along access routes and at the dam abutments as needed to ensure safe access to the dam. Vegetation management includes 1) trimming of herbaceous vegetation using a mower, string trimmer, or similar equipment; 2) herbicide use; and 3) removal of hazard trees or trees overhanging the diversion facilities, where required, to avoid damage to the facilities.

Beaver Dam Removal

Beaver dams are removed as necessary when they affect safe and efficient operation of the diversion dam. If beaver dam removal cannot be completed by hand, a backhoe or excavator, parked and stabilized on dam abutments or previously disturbed areas along the banks, is used as described above for large debris removal.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying out Project: Placer County Water Agency

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. State code number
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is exempt under Class 1 because it consists of the operation and maintenance of an existing facility (the Pleasant Grove Canal Diversion Dam) with no expansion of use.

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

DocuSigned by:
 Signature: Jeff Drongesen
 Jeff Drongesen, Environmental Program Manager

Date: 4/1/2020 Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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