

**Notice of Exemption****- 1 -****To:**

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

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Inland Deserts Region  
 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard,  
 Suite C-220  
 Ontario, CA 91764

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** McDonald Road Culvert Replacement Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0286-R6)

**Project Location (include county):** The Project is located at Diaz Creek at the McDonald Road crossing, approximately three (3) miles south-west of the town of Lone Pine, in the County of Inyo, State of California; Section 5, Township 16S, Range 36E, United States Geological Survey (USGS) map *Lone Pine, California 7.5-minute quadrangle*; Assessor's Parcel Number 026-290-13 and 026-270-10.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2019-0286-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Inyo County Public Works (Permittee) as represented by Jacob Trauscht.

The proposed Project is limited to the replacement of an existing and under-sized 12-inch culvert on Diaz Creek with a 48-inch High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) culvert in order to re-establish a washed-out portion of McDonald Road. Diaz Creek will be impounded about 10-15 feet upstream of the Project area using sandbags to block the flow. Water will be pumped in a hose over the road and to a downstream location below the Project site. The inlet and outlet of the diversion pump and hose system will be equipped with a 0.75 X 0.75-inch mesh screen to prevent aquatic life from entering the pump. The roadway will be excavated at a 2:1 slope, the existing culvert removed and replaced with the new culvert at the same location and invert elevation, and the road rebuilt with a cold asphalt mix. Approximately 22-cubic yards of clean fill material will be added to the upstream embankment to replace washed out embankment material. Approximately 4-cubic yards of riprap will be installed at the culvert inlet and outlet to prevent erosion of the embankment and subsequent deposition of sediment into the stream during high flows.

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

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Inyo County Public Works

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption. § 15269(a) Emergency Projects  
 Categorical Exemption.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** During spring runoff 2017, flood waters washed out the existing culvert and part of McDonald Road. A State of Emergency was subsequently proclaimed in 2017 for all of Inyo and Mono Counties by the then State Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. The washout has reduced traffic to one-way on McDonald Road. The proposed Project will re-establish regular two-way service to the public roadway.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Patricia Moyer (Habitat Conservation Program Supervisor) at (760) 872-1129 or (760) 835-4304

**Signature:**

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 Scott Wilson  
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**Date:** 5/5/2020

Scott Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_