

# Notice of Exemption

**To:**  Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Sadie J. Smith

**Project Title:** Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion 1 (Mello)

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific:** Located on the east side of the Smithneck Road, 1.5± miles south of the City of Loyalton, Sierra County, California. APN Nos. 016-090-016 and 016-090-019.

**Project Location – City:** Near Loyalton

**Project Location – County:** Sierra

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Acquisition of 976± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of deer and mountain lion habitat, increased protection of regional wildlife habitat corridors, and to provide potential future wildlife-oriented public-use opportunities as an expansion of CDFW's Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** John P. Donnelly, Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status:** (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15071 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15071 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:  
Public Resources Code 21080.28. Acquisition of an interest in Land by a Public Agency.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Project involves the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** John P. Donnelly

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 445-0137

**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 (by this notice)  No

DocuSigned by:  
Signature: John P. Donnelly Date: 5/20/2020 Title: Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

**Date received for Filing:**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**MAY 21 2020**

CC: WCB Binder  
WCB Surname  
Chron

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Revised: 9/2013