



### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Tehachapi District  
15101 Lancaster Road  
Lancaster, CA 93536

**PROJECT TITLE:** Water Banking

**LOCATION:** Tule Elk State Natural Reserve

**COUNTY:** Kern

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

The project is to formalize a joint development agreement between the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Buena Vista Water Storage District for the maintenance of water conveyance and ground water recharging activities within Tule Elk State Natural Reserve. Buena Vista Water Storage District over the past several decades has conducted surface water delivery and groundwater recharge operations within the Reserve without any formal agreement, which has provided significant environmental benefits to the Reserve; such benefits include providing surface water supply to the Reserve for flora and fauna and providing a groundwater benefit to those overlying the aquifer.

DPR-approved standard project requirements have been incorporated into this project. A copy of these requirements may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Tehachapi

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- Statutory Exemption (Section )
- Categorical Exemption

Class: 4 Section(s): 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated in compliance with Section 15300.2. Project will result in the improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources (class 4d)

**CONTACT:** Russ Dingman, District Environmental Coordinator    **PHONE NO.:** (661) 724-2380  
 California Department of Parks & Recreation    **EMAIL:** rdingman@parks.ca.gov  
 Tehachapi District Headquarters  
 15101 Lancaster Road  
 Lancaster, CA 93536

For Russ Dingman  
 Kathy Weatherman  
 District Superintendent, Tehachapi District  
5/15/2012  
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 Date