Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research *For U.S. Mail:* P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 **From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 1 - Northern 601 Locust Street Redding, California 96001

Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Scott River Off-Channel Habitat Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0345-R1)

Project Location (include county): The project is located on the Scott River, in the County of Siskiyou, State of California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2019-0345-R1, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Siskiyou Resource Conservation District.

The project is limited to the construction of an off-channel salmonid winter habitat pond on Scott River at river-mile 26.6. The pond is intended to provide thermally buffered and low-velocity deep water shelter as these qualities are limited due to the flood plain lacking complexity. The proposed project as described involves the excavation of a pond, which measures approximately 0.25 acre in size and a depth of 15-16 feet. The connection point will be established by using an existing oxbow to create an access channel to allow the fish to move volitionally between the pond and oxbow as long as sufficient water levels exist. The oxbow does disconnect seasonally; however groundwater should provide sufficient subsurface flow for a water supply and temperature buffer in the pond. Up to 12,000 cubic yards of spoil will be excavated and deposited 200 feet from the main channel. In addition, for shelter and habitat complexity, 10-12 large wood will be installed, and native riparian planting will occur. Rock and cobble may also be placed along slopes for stability of the large woody debris and/or for stability. Exposed soils will be seeded and strawed, as well as planted with a mixture of native trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses to aid in revegetation and prevent erosion.

After the project is constructed, Permittee will perform maintenance of the constructed habitat as needed over the term of the Agreement. Permittee will implement the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan. This plan includes water quality monitoring, functionality monitoring and maintenance, fish health monitoring, and reporting. The overall project site is approximately one acre, including the pond footprint, spoil disposal site and staging areas.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (530) 467-3975

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption.

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Project not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants or wildlife.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will have no significant effects on the environment.

CDFW Contact Person: Brad Henderson (530) 225-2362

Ast Signature: 6

Brad Henderson Aquatic Conservation Planning Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

_____<u>Date:</u> 8/2/19