ATTACHMENT 5

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Project Title: Ward Creek Restoration Project (Project)

Project Location – Specific:
The Project area is 36 acres, located in Placer County, adjacent to Ward Creek Boulevard, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from State Route 89. (Exhibit A)

Project Location – City: N/A
Project Location – County: Placer County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Project includes removing encroaching conifers, regrading to remove relic roads, and placing wood and vegetation to improve habitat, stabilize streambanks, and rewet the meadow. The Project will increase climate resilience, enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and improve water quality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:
California Tahoe Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Exempt Status:
☐ Ministerial (§ 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
☒ Categorical Exemption (Public Resources Code §21080.56)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:
This Project is designed to restore habitat for California native fish and wildlife in Ward Creek and on the adjacent floodplain and upland. Public Resources Code (PRC) §21080.56 allows for projects that restore habitat for native fish and wildlife and comply with all other requirements of PRC §21080.56 to be exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The Conservancy Executive Director determined on April 16, 2026, that the Project is exempt from CEQA under PRC §21080.56. The Conservancy submitted this determination to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for review on April 16, 2026, and the Conservancy

received the CDFW concurrence letter on May 27, 2026. The CDFW posted Concurrence No. 21080.56-2026-105-R2 in accordance with PRC §21080.56(g).

Contact Person: Jen Greenberg
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Date Received for Filing:

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Jason Vasques
Executive Director