



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director



To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Basso/La Grange Reach Floodplain and Spawning Habitat Restoration Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2026-0027-R4)

Project Location (Stanislaus County): The Project is located within and adjacent to the Tuolumne River, in the unincorporated community of La Grange, County of Stanislaus, California; centered at coordinates 37.66551, -120.47034; Sections 18, 19, and 24, Township 3 South, Range 14 East; U.S. Geological Survey Map La Grange; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 008-042-005-000, 008-042-004-000, 008-042-009-000, 008-025-001-000, 008-025-003-000, 008-016-034-000, 008-016-011-000, 008-016-016-000, and 008-016-012-000.

Project Description: On May 29, 2026, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued a Restoration Management Permit (RMP) pursuant to section 1670 of the Fish and Game Code to the Tuolumne River Trust dba Yosemite Rivers Alliance (Permittee). The Project is designed to restore the structural and functional integrity of aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat within the 202-acre Project Area, to primarily benefit chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead/rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) via the restoration and enhancement of habitat along the lower Tuolumne River. CDFW has determined that the Project is a Qualifying Restoration Project pursuant to section 1671(d)(1) of the Fish and Game Code, and the Project is expected to result in a substantial, cumulative benefit to native fish, wildlife, plants, or their habitat, or any combination thereof. This notice is to advise that CDFW issued the above-described RMP on the date signed below.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: YOSEMITE RIVERS ALLIANCE

Exempt Status: The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. Under Public Resources Code section 21080.1, subdivision (a), the lead agency is responsible for determining whether a project is exempt from CEQA, and that determination is final and conclusive

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on all persons, including responsible agencies. Notwithstanding Section 21080.1, subdivision (a), a lead agency's determination that a project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56 is only valid if the exemption determination is made after the Director of CDFW has concurred with the lead agency's preliminary determination that the project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

On September 8, 2022, the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation, as CEQA lead agency, (Lead Agency) made a preliminary determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive. On October 28, 2022, the Director of CDFW concurred with the Lead Agency preliminary determination. On November 14, 2022, the Lead Agency made a final determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, and the Lead Agency determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. CDFW, now acting as a CEQA responsible agency for the issuance of the RMP on May 29, 2026, is bound by the Lead Agency determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

CDFW Contact Person: Megan Rooney, Environmental Scientist, (559) 203-2792 or megan.rooney@wildlife.ca.gov

Julie Vance
Signature: FA83F09FE08945A... Date: 5/29/2026

Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: