

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814	From: Department of Fish and Wildlife Wildlife Conservation Board P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
County Clerk (County of): Humboldt	Contact: James Croft Phone: (916) 926-7523
	Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact: Shawn Fresz Phone: (707) 601-6281

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted by State Clearinghouse) 2024041277

Project Title: Cannibal Island Restoration Project

Project Location: The Project is located 3 miles west of the town of Loleta, Humboldt County California within the Eel River estuary (coordinates 40.653, -124.289)

CEQA Region: Nor.Cal

Project Description:

The Project will enhance and reconnect full tidal exchange to approximately 500 acres of former tidal marsh habitat through the removal of degraded water control structures, excavation of historic slough channels, and enhancement of natural marsh topography. Increased tidal exchange and connectivity will promote recovery and maintenance of tidal marsh habitats that support a variety of native fish, wildlife, and plant species, including Sensitive Natural Communities (SNC), rare plants, and State and Federal Endangered Species Act-listed fish, such as Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and others. Improvement of tidal channel networks will accommodate natural sediment transport and marsh plain accretion processes, thereby increasing the resilience of this landscape to sea level rise. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025130.

This is to advise that the Wildlife Conservation Board has approved the above-described project on 5/28/26 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

Lead Agency Responsible Agency

Exempt Status: (Check One)

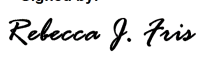
Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
 Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
 Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
 Categorical Exemption, State Section Number and type:
 Statutory Exemptions, State Code Number and type: Public Resources Code section 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as lead agency, determined that the Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), Public Resources Code section 21080.56, as a project that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration.

If filed by applicant:

- Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
 Yes (by this notice) No

Signature:  <small>Signed by: Rebecca J. Fris</small>	Title: Deputy Executive Director	Date: 5/29/2026
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SCH#: 2024041277 **Posted Date:**
Date Received for Filing at OPR: