

Notice of Exemption

To:

Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



Project Title: Adult Transport and Release Pilot Study to Inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program

Project Location: North Yuba River watershed, upstream of New Bullards Bar Dam and Reservoir and downstream of Loves Falls.

Project Description: The Project is a Pilot Study to evaluate adult transport, holding habitat, and spawning locations. Pilot Studies to inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program consists of studies to evaluate the feasibility of reintroducing Spring-run Chinook salmon to the North Yuba River to expand their range to include historic habitat suitable to increase its resiliency.

Public Agency Carrying out: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 6; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306

Reasons why project is exempt: See attachment.

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Signature: 
Morgan Kilgour, Regional Manager, North Central Region

Date: 5/15/2025



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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
Adult Transport and Release Pilot Study to Inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), by and through its North Central Region Manager, has taken final action to approve implementation of an Adult Transport and Release Pilot Study (Project) to Inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program. In taking its final agency action for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CDFW approved the Project relying on Categorical Exemption Class 6 Information Collection ([14 CCR § 15306](#)).

Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon, a species listed as Threatened under the federal and State Endangered Species Act, have been extirpated from the North Yuba River due to impassable rim dams. The Project consists of an Adult Transport and Release Pilot Study to evaluate the feasibility of reintroducing Spring-run Chinook salmon to the North Yuba River to expand their range to include historic habitat suitable to increase its resiliency.

The Class 6 Categorical Exemption applies to information collection. Specifically, a project is exempt from further review under CEQA if the project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This exemption is applicable because the Project only includes data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, collectively referred to as a Pilot Study to inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program (Program). The Pilot Study will inform further CDFW actions for the Program which have not yet been approved, adopted, or funded. Further, this exemption is applicable because exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions ([14 CCR § 15300.2](#)) have been reviewed and found not applicable to the Project.