

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 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Aaron N.K. Haiman

Project Title: Vanauken Creek Habitat Enhancement

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

215-162-030-000, 215-162-021-000, 215-162-022-000

Project Location – City: ~16 west of Garberville

Project Location – County: Humboldt

CEQA Region: N. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

This implementation project will enhance fish habitat by improving pool habitat, channel structure, and complexity through by implementing the placement of instream structures in Vanauken Creek. This project is intended to address a lack of instream wood resulting from historic land use impacts and logging. The structures will create scour pools where project sites are flatwater runs, provide cover and shade habitat and existing pools, and provide slow water refugia during high flows. Strategic grading at several locations will reconnect floodplains and reverse channel incision. Additionally, the project will include forest thinning in the riparian area. Vanauken Creek is located in Humboldt County. [Proposition 1, Water Code Section 79733]. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025012.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
☐ Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:
☒ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number: 21080.56
☐ Other:

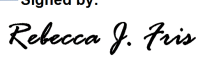
Reasons why this project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 21080.56 of the Public Resources Code (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects). Therefore, the project may be found to be exempt from environmental review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rebecca J. Fris

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 212-5637

If filed by applicant: 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
 2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes, (by this notice) ☐ No

Signature:  Signed by: *Rebecca J. Fris*

Title: Deputy Executive Director

Date: 5/23/2025

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code

SCH #:
Posted Date:
Date Received for Filing at OPR: