

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Vanauken Creek Habitat Enhancement Project (WDID 1B26065WNHU)

Project Location: Humboldt County **Coordinates:** 40.051894° N, 123.956686° W

Project Description: On June 11, 2026, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) issued this Statewide Restoration General Order Notice of Applicability (NOA) to Sanctuary Forest. The Project will enhance approximately 4,400 linear feet of aquatic habitat in Vanauken Creek, a tributary to the Mattole River, by constructing various instream habitat features and through forest thinning treatments. This notice is to advise that the Regional Water Board issued the above-described NOA on the date signed below.

Public Agency Approving Project: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Sanctuary Forest

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 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 May 22, 2024, the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department made the determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive. On June 19, 2024, the Director of CDFW concurred with the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department's preliminary determination (Concurrence No. 21080.56-2024-054-R1).

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Regional Water Board, now acting as a CEQA responsible agency for the issuance of the NOA on June 11, 2026, is bound by the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

Signature: JAKE SHANNON **Date:** June 11, 2026

Jake Shannon, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Jacob.Shannon@waterboards.ca.gov

Date received for filing at LCI: