

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:

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



Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Big Chico Creek Iron Canyon Fish Passage (Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. BUT-54712-R2)

Project Location: The project is located at Big Chico Creek, in the County of Butte, State of California; between Latitude 39.78365, Longitude -121.74013 and Latitude: 38.78629, Longitude -121.73855 (WGS 84 datum, decimal degrees); Assessor's Parcel Number 016-240-002.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification Number BUT-54712-R2, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, California Trout.

The project is limited to the modification and restoration of a fish passage barrier in Big Chico Creek. The barrier is currently impassible due to large boulders and high vertical drops. The project will allow Chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 11*), steelhead - Central Valley DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11*), and a suite of native fish species access to upstream habitat that has been inaccessible for the past seven (7) years.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying out Project:

California Trout
Damon Goodman
435 Pacific Avenue, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 392-8887
dgoodman@caltrout.org

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

Reasons why project is exempt: CDFW has determined that the project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) the City of Chico's May 16, 2024, initial

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determination as lead agency that the project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive; and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the CDFW Director's January 9, 2024, concurrence with that City of Chico determination, which is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences.

CDFW Contact Person: Zach Kearns, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), (916) 358-1134

Signature:  _____
Morgan Kilgour PhD, Environmental Program Manager

Date: 6/2/2025