



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
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Fresno, California 93710
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www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



To:
Office of Planning and Research
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Population Augmentation in the North Fork Merced River

Project Location (Tuolumne and Alameda County): The Project will occur at collection and release sites within North Fork Merced River.

Captive Rearing Site: Oakland Zoo, Oakland CA.

Project Description: The proposed recovery actions include captive-rearing FYLFs at the Oakland Zoo, following a successful program of the captive-rearing and successful release of FYLF in a watershed in the Plumas National Forest (and supported by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Zoo and CDFW). The applicant plans to captive-rear tadpoles, or eggs or metamorphs, from the wild North Fork Merced River population for rearing for one year. The applicant proposes collecting up to 50 tadpoles (tadpoles will be targeted for collection, but depending on logistics, eggs or metamorphs may be collected instead of tadpoles) the late spring early summer (i.e., June). Zoo experts will rear the tadpoles through metamorphosis and release adult frogs back to their natal stream (North Fork Merced River), in the summer of the following year. The frogs will not be held at the Zoo for longer than one year.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
United States Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest
Region 5 Sierra Nevada Amphibian Monitoring Program Team Leader
Cathy Brown
Cathy.Brown@usda.gov

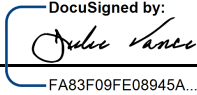
Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

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Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 7 Categorical Exemption applies to proposed “actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources” projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, 21000 et seq.). The proposed project involves re-establishing populations of an endangered species to historically occupied locations, which is required to achieve recovery. The Project is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the environment.

CDFW Contact Person: Margarita Gordus, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
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Signature:  Date: 6/13/2025
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Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____