

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sacramento

From: (Public Agency): CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
PO Box 942209
Sacramento, CA 94224

(Address)

Project Title: Tenmile Creek Gage Re-initiation

Project Applicant: Salmonid Restoration Federation

Project Location - Specific:

The project will be on a privately owned parcel in Tenmile Creek, tributary to the South

Project Location - City: Laytonville Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to reactivate a historic United States Geological Survey (USGS) surface water gage (#11475700) at Tenmile Creek near Laytonville, CA, and record high-quality stream gage data and water temperature in real-time and available for the public on the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC). Tenmile Creek supports all three ESA-listed Pacific salmon species including Chinook Salmon, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho (SONCC) Salmon and steelhead trout, and the National Marine Fisheries Service's intrinsic potential habitat maps indicate that Tenmile Creek had more historically suitable habitat than the upper South Fork Eel River, which currently has one of the last functioning SONCC Coho Salmon meta-populations (NMFS 2014). This project is crucial for a wide range of stakeholders—including resource managers, restoration practitioners, natural resource agencies, and cannabis cultivators—because it provides reliable, long-term hydrologic data essential for informed decision-making. For managers and restoration practitioners, continuous flow data supports efforts to assess watershed health, track timing and magnitude of instream flow relative to restoration (e.g. the recent Wildlife Conservation Board-funded Black Oak Ranch Water Conservation and Flow Enhancement Project), and plan projects that enhance stream function and resilience. Natural resource agencies rely on gage data to protect aquatic habitats and species, particularly during low-flow periods critical to fish survival. For permitted cannabis cultivators, access to accurate streamflow records helps ensure compliance with water diversion regulations, align operations with environmental flow needs, and demonstrates responsible water use. Overall, restoring this datastream bridges scientific knowledge gaps and supports sustainable land and water management in the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Salmonid Restoration Federation

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____ CA Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 19; Sections 15306, 15301 and 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

There are no adverse impacts to sensitive plant or wildlife species. Specifically, section 15306: Installing and retrieving data from a data logger attached to a metal stake is basic data collection/resource evaluation and avoids substantial disturbance; 15301: The radar will be affixed to an existing bridge, not expanding use; and 15304: Only minor and temporary disturbance to the stream bed is unavoidable and no mature or scenic trees will be removed.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kelly Souza Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-531-3195

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 No

Signature: Kelly Souza Date: 9/3/2025 Title: Sen ES, Supervisor

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____