



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Bay Delta Region  
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**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**VALERIE TERMINI, Acting Director**



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**Project Title:** Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, (No. EPIMS-SAC-55001-R3))

**Project Location (Sacramento County):** The Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank (Project) is located in an unincorporated area two miles northeast of the City of Walnut Grove, located between Lambert and Twin Cities Road in the County of Sacramento, State of California; Latitude 38.29886, Longitude -121.50384. Assessor Parcel Number (APN): 146-0070-002-0000. Within the Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank, the Project includes areas subject to temporary or permanent disturbance within Snodgrass Slough, Railroad Cut, and adjoining riparian areas.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-SAC-55001-R3, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Westervelt Ecological Services as represented by Chris McColl.

The 5.81-acre Project is limited to the following activities: removal of two existing levee sections along Snodgrass Slough, excavation for nine channel connections along Railroad Cut, and removal of farm-related infrastructure. The levee breaches and channel connections will create tidal connections between Snodgrass Slough, Railroad Cut, and the adjacent 580-acre restoration area.

**Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**  
Scott Salembier

**Exempt Status:** On July 24, 2025, the County of Sacramento, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21083.3. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), the Lead Agency is responsible for determining whether the Project is exempt from CEQA and that determination shall be final and conclusive on all persons, including

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Responsible Agencies. As a result, CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, is bound by the Lead Agency's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Elijah Portugal, (Senior Environmental Scientist), 707-428-2088, Elijah.Portugal@wildlife.ca.gov

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 2/18/2026 \_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Farinha, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: