

## Notice of Exemption

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| <b>To:</b> Office of Planning and Research<br>State Clearinghouse<br>1400 Tenth Street, Room 113<br>Sacramento, CA 95814<br><br><b>County Clerk (County of):</b> N/A | <b>From:</b> Department of Fish and Wildlife<br><b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b><br>P.O. Box 944209<br>Sacramento, CA 99244-2090<br><br><b>Attention:</b> James Croft |
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**Project Title:** Habitat Incentive Programs for Waterbirds

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**  
 Project locations will be located on various parcels of privately owned land in the Central Valley within Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba Counties.

**Project Location – City:** Various

**Project Location – County:** Various

**CEQA Region:** N. CA

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**  
 Project will grant funds to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to solicit for and fund projects that provide habitat for migratory waterbirds during times of the year when birds need it most by: incentivizing land management practices to create migratory bird habitat, solicit program applications and select parcels to enroll, and undertake ongoing monitoring to evaluate program effectiveness. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025164.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**  
 Ministerial (Sec. 15268):  
 Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:  
 Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:  
 Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:  
 Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:  
 Other: Section 15378(b)(4)

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**  
 The approval of a grant to CDFW for potential funding of potential future projects to restore or enhance habitat located on privately-owned lands in various counties is not a project subject to the requirements of CEQA, because it is a government fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Rebecca J. Fris

**Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (916) 212-5637

**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, (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** DocuSigned by: John Walsh for Rebecca Fris **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 3/2/2026

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

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| Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.<br>Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code | <b>SCH #:</b><br><b>Posted Date:</b><br><b>Date Received for Filing at OPR:</b> |
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