



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**MEGHAN HERTEL, Director**



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**Project Title:** Mill Creek Habitat Connectivity Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2026-0018-R1)

**Project Location (Humboldt):** The 2.04-acre Project is located on Mill Creek, a tributary to Strongs Creek, tributary to the Lower Eel River which drains to the Pacific Ocean. The Project is located in the County of Humboldt, State of California; Latitude 40.570655, and Longitude -124.126827.

**Project Description:** On March 5, 2026, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued this Restoration Management Permit (RMP) pursuant to section 1670 of the Fish and Game Code to the City of Fortuna. This Project includes management or propagation activities intended to benefit native fish, wildlife, plants, or their habitat, or a combination thereof. The Project is expected to address known fish passage barriers and increase salmonid habitat quality and extent in Mill Creek. Fish passage enhancements will include replacing and upgrading culverts and associated hydraulic constrictions at five crossings in Mill Creek and include floodplain enhancements and addition of large woody debris in strategic locations. The project will provide habitat connectivity to the upper reaches of Mill Creek and result in additional spawning and rearing habitat for Northern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and salmonids, such as coastal cutthroat trout (*O. clarkii clarkii*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*). The Project will also improve in-stream habitat for other special status species, like Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*), western brook lamprey (*Lampetra richardsoni*), and northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). CDFW has determined that the Project is a Qualifying Restoration Project pursuant to section 1671(d)(1) of the Fish and Game Code, and the Project is expected to result in a substantial, cumulative benefit to native fish, wildlife, and their habitat. This notice is to advise that CDFW issued the above-described RMP on the date signed below.

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

RMP-2026-0018-R1

March 5, 2026

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

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

Mat Nyberg

City of Fortuna

(707) 725-1471

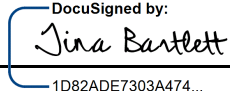
Mnyberg@ci.fortuna.ca.us

P.O. Box 545,

Fortuna, CA 95540

**Exempt Status:** On April 18, 2025, the City of Fortuna, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15333. 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 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:** Corrina Kamoroff, Environmental Scientist, (707) 653-3578, and [Corrina.Kamoroff@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Corrina.Kamoroff@wildlife.ca.gov).

**Signature:**  **Date:** 3/6/2026

Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: