

# 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: Stanislaus

**From:** (Public Agency): Turlock Irrigation District  
333 East Canal Drive  
Turlock, CA 95380

(Address)

Project Title: Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Turlock Irrigation District

Project Location - Specific:

Tuolumne River near La Grange, California. 37.665724, -120.443556

Project Location - City: La Grange

Project Location - County: Stanislaus

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project is a mainstem Tuolumne River restoration effort designed to improve spawning and rearing habitat for Fall-run and Spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Oncorhynchus mykiss. The Project will replace riffles that were scoured during high flows in 1997, 2011, and 2017, and will contribute towards non-flow commitments made under the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of spawning gravel will be used to construct riffles and gravel bars, which will create 4.8 acres of new gravel features, restoring 2,400 linear feet of the Tuolumne River.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Turlock Irrigation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Turlock Irrigation District

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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

TID has determined the Project is exclusively a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, and a project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife. TID has determined that the Project does both of the following: (1) Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and (2) Includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment. The project will result in net benefits to climate resiliency by providing additional cool-water refuge areas that include salmonid spawning habitat, instream cover, and increased food supply in the lower Tuolumne River. The project will result in net benefits to biodiversity by restoring ecological function to the lower Tuolumne River, which will support target and non-target species that rely on the river. The project will result in net benefits to sensitive species recovery by enhancing Chinook salmon habitat on the Tuolumne River, as well as special-status terrestrial invertebrates and plants through native reseeding and preserving existing populations.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Michael Cooke

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-883-8300

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/16/2016 Title: Director of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs

▪ 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: \_\_\_\_\_