

Notice of Exemption

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Central Valley Flood Protection Board
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State Clearinghouse Number: 2026030679

Project Title: Permit No. 20096 – Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project

Project Applicant/Lead Agency: Turlock Irrigation District, Michael Cook, Director of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs, 333 East Canal Drive, Turlock, CA 95380, (209) 883-8300, micooke@tid.org

Project Location: The project is located approximately 24 miles northeast of the City of Turlock, in the community of La Grange, within the Tuolumne River floodway, at 37.665724°N 120.443556°W, Tuolumne River, Stanislaus County.

Project Description: To construct and restore a 2,500-foot reach of the mainstem Tuolumne River designated floodway, the project involves the placement of 25,452 cubic yards of clean spawning gravel, sourced from within the floodway, to construct 4.8 acres of low-gradient riffle complexes and gravel bars. The project also includes the installation of 80 habitat boulders, 49 large wood logs with attached rootwads that will be securely embedded into the banks. All in-channel earthwork and encroachment installations will be conducted during the low-flow season (June 15 – October 31) using temporary gravel access routes specifically configured to avoid sensitive areas.

Public Agency Approving Project: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

Exempt Status:

☒ Statutory Exemption: Pub. Res. Code Section 21080.56

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project is excluded from CEQA pursuant to Section 21080.56 of the Public Resources Code (PRC), which exempts a project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife meeting certain requirements. On March 16, 2026, the CDFW Director concurred with the Turlock Irrigation District determination that the project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in PRC Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive. Specifically, the CDFW Director concurred with the Turlock Irrigation District that the project meets all of the following conditions: (1) the project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the project may have public benefits incidental to the project's fundamental purpose; (3) the project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. Pursuant to PRC Section 21080.56, subdivision (g), CDFW has posted this Concurrence on CDFW's CEQA Notices and Documents webpage: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>.

Chris Lief

7/2/2026

Signature

Chris Lief, Executive Officer

Date

☒ Signed by Public Agency ☐ Signed by Responsible Agency