Print Form

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: Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): East Merced RCD
2926 G Street
Merced, CA 95340
(Address)

Project Title: Sweetwater Restoration Project

Project Applicant: East Merced Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

The Project is located 10 miles northeast of the City of Los Banos at APN 049240006.

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Merced County Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

River Partners, as Project Proponent, proposes to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend. The project includes approximately 500 acres of habitat restoration within the 560-acre parcel.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: East Merced Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: River Partners

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 Section 21080.56, subdivision (a) to (d), inclusive (Concurrence)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency Determination that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (a) to (D), inclusive (Concurrence). See following pages for details.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Zachary Wells Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (510)-862-9891

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: Zachary Wells Digitally signed by Zachary Wells Date: 2026.05.06 12:58:22 -07'00' Date: May 6, 2026 Title: Executive Director

▪ 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: _____