

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Caltrans District 1  
1656 Union Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Ecological Restoration of the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary

Project Location - Specific:

Upstream Boundary: Latitude 41.442; Longitude -123.910

Downstream Boundary: Latitude 41.425; Longitude -123.929

Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Yurok Tribal Fisheries Department (YTFD) is proposing to enhance 2.0 miles (~100 acres) of lower Blue Creek to improve habitat conditions and ecosystem function for native fish and wildlife. Project activities include creating low velocity stream and off-channel areas by reconfiguring impaired habitats and adding structural elements (wood accumulations/jams, bioengineered willow baffles) to increase floodplain connectivity and ground water recharge, reduce stream velocities and channel incision, and promote beneficial self-maintaining physical and biological processes. The primary purpose of this project is to implement voluntary restorations actions to improve vitally important habitat (i.e. stream, floodplain, riparian) and water quality for Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and lamprey. Proposed actions will also support other species recovery and forest improvement objectives identified for the Blue Creek Sanctuary.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Agency Carrying Out Project: Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department

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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Common Sense Exemption. 14 CCR 15061[b][3]

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cassie Nichols

Phone number: 707-798-7557

**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: *Cassie Nichols*      Date: 05/12/26 Title: Sr Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.