



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
601 Locust St
Redding, CA, 96001
(530) 319-1371
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Lower French Creek Sediment Reduction and Fish Passage Improvement Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2026-0035-R1)

Project Location (Siskiyou County): The 4.5-acre Project is located within Lower French Creek, approximately four miles southeast of the city of Etna. The Project is located in the County of Siskiyou, State of California; Latitude 41.414349 and Longitude -122.853473.

Project Description: On August 11, 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 United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This Project is expected to improve fish passage in lower French Creek by increasing the depth and velocity within the low flow channel. This will be done by reducing surface water disconnection, eliminating fish passage barriers, and increasing channel complexity. 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, plants, and their habitat, or any combination thereof. This notice is to advise that CDFW issued the above-described RMP on the date signed below.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Madison McGroarty
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
(415) 392-8887
madison_mcgroarty@fws.gov
1829 S. Oregon St.
Yreka, CA 96097

Exempt Status: On June 9, 2026, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15333. Pursuant to Public Resources

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August 11, 2026

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: Stacey Alexander (Environmental Scientist), (530) 319-1371, and Stacey.Alexander@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: _____  *Date:* 8/11/2026

Jason Roberts, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: