



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
North Central Region, Region 2
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4599
(916) 358-2900
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: Castle and Round Valley Meadows Restoration Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2026-0026-R2)

Project Location: The Project lies north of Interstate 80 Exit 176, near Donner Summit, and northeast of Soda Springs near the headwaters of the South Yuba River. The Project is located in the County of Nevada, State of California; with the Castle Valley project area at Latitude 39.3488191 and Longitude -120.3551359, and the Round Valley project area at Latitude 39.3703388 and Longitude -120.3650558; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 015-200-006, 015-200-005, 017-010-001, 015-200-002, and 015-170-005.

Project Description: On August 7, 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 South Yuba River Citizens League as Represented by Parker Eversoll. This Project will use process based restoration tools to remove sediment buildup, increase groundwater recharge, increase habitat heterogeneity, improve meadow biodiversity and climate resilience, and directly promote habitat improvements for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) through stream velocity reduction, increased ponding areas, and improved hydrologic thermal consistency. The Project is designed to result in a self-sustaining meadow ecosystem that requires little human intervention over a 25 to 50 year time frame. The Project includes an adaptive management strategy to meet Project restoration objectives. 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 wildlife, plants, and their habitat. 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**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

RMP-2026-0026-R2

August 7, 2026

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Parker Eversoll

South Yuba River Citizens League

Headwaters Science Project Manager

313 Railroad Ave. Suite 101

Nevada City, CA 95959

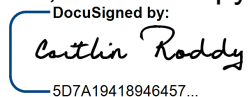
(530) 265-5961 ext. 235

parker@yubariver.org

Exempt Status: The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. Under Public Resources Code section 21080.1, subdivision (a), the lead agency is responsible for determining whether a project is exempt from CEQA, and that determination is final and conclusive on all persons, including responsible agencies. Notwithstanding Section 21080.1, subdivision (a), a lead agency's determination that a project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56 is only valid if the exemption determination is made after the Director of CDFW has concurred with the lead agency's preliminary determination that the project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

On April 30, 2026, the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board made a preliminary determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive. On June 9, 2026, the Director of CDFW concurred with the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board's preliminary determination. On August 7, 2026, the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board as CEQA lead agency made a final determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, and the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. CDFW, now acting as a CEQA responsible agency for the issuance of the RMP on August 7, 2026, is bound by the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board determination on August 7, 2026, that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

CDFW Contact Person: Briana Seapy (Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor), (916) 508-3345, briana.seapy@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

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Signature: _____ Date: 8/7/2026

Morgan Kilgour, PhD, Regional Manager