



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
wildlife.ca.gov

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Mark West Creek and Wetland Restoration Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2026-0036-R3)

Project Location (Sonoma): The approximately 19-acre Project includes 12 sites located in the upper Mark West Creek watershed within the 1,192-acre Mark West Creek Regional Park & Open Space Preserve in unincorporated Sonoma County, northeast of Santa Rosa, State of California; Latitude 38.549024 and Longitude -122.704189; and Assessor's Parcel Numbers 079-090-008-00, 079-090-016-000, 079-090-014-000, 028-060-062-000, 028-060-063-000, 028-060-058-000, 028-060-064-000, 028-060-053-000, 028-060-067-000, 028-070-036-000, 079-090-015-000, 028-060-066-000, 028-060-056-000, 028-060-054-000, 028-060-047-000, 028-060-048-000.

Project Description: On September 18, 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 Sonoma County Regional Parks. This Project includes management or propagation activities intended to benefit native fish, wildlife, plants, or their habitat, or a combination thereof. Through the installation of beaver dam analogues, biotechnical bank stabilizations, large wood loading, upper watershed process-based restoration, and removal and modification of fish passage barriers, the Project is expected to restore a variety of aquatic, riparian, wetland, and floodplain habitats. These restoration benefits include enhancing streamflow and wetlands, elevation of groundwater levels, reduced erosion and improved water quality, restored habitat for salmonids, and restored watershed function and resiliency. Completion of the Project will benefit multiple native species including of the central California coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), CCC Distinct Population Segment (DPS) steelhead (*O. mykiss*), north coast DPS foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), and northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). 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, 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-2026-0036-R3
September 18, 2026

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Minona Heaviland, Natural Resources Park Program Supervisor
Sonoma County Regional Parks
(707) 565-2734
Minona.Heaviland@sonoma-county.org
400 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, California 95403

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 October 22, 2025, the County of Sonoma, acting by and through its Regional Parks Department 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 December 8, 2025, the Director of CDFW concurred with the County of Sonoma, acting by and through its Regional Parks Department preliminary determination. On January 6, 2026, the County of Sonoma, acting by and through its Regional Parks Department 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 County of Sonoma, acting by and through its Regional Parks Department 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 September 18, 2026, is bound by the County of Sonoma, acting by and through its Regional Parks Department determination on January 6, 2026, that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

CDFW Contact Person: Michael Stuhldreher, Environmental Scientist, (707) 815-6800,
Michael.Stuhldreher@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Erin Chappell
Signature: _____ Date: 9/18/2026
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Erin Chappell, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: