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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: Baby Bottle Pond Invasive Species Eradication Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-CCA-68712-R3)

Project Location (Contra Costa County): The Project is located at an unnamed pond, locally known as Baby Bottle Pond, located on San Pablo Ridge, 0.2 miles west of El Toyonal and 0.1 miles south of Wildcat Canyon Road near the city of Orinda in the County of Contra Costa, State of California; Latitude 37.89807, Longitude -122.22665; Assessor's Parcel Number 267-030-021-0.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-CCA-68712-R3, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to East Bay Municipal Utility District.

The Project will restore and enhance aquatic habitat conditions at Baby Bottle Pond by eliminating non-native aquatic species and improving shallow-water habitat for California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, and other native aquatic species by draining the pond and removing documented predator species such as large-mouth bass and by removing 0.13 acres of emergent vegetation to increase the availability of drought-resilient breeding and foraging habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Bert Mulchaey
East Bay Municipal Utility District

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Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist
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500 San Pablo Dam Road
Orinda, CA 94563

Exempt Status: On August 17, 2026, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15333. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources 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: Desiree Dela Vega, Environmental Scientist, (707) 815-6856, Desiree.delavega@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Brenda Blinn D8BB38389E864AD... *Date:* 9/15/2026

Brenda Blinn, acting for Melissa Farinha, Environmental Program Manager
Region 3: Bay Delta Region

Date received for filing at LCI: