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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-2300
wildlife.ca.gov

Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Elk River Live Tree and Woody Debris Removal Project (Project)

Project Location (Humboldt County): The Project is located within the Elk River watershed, approximately 6 miles south of the City of Eureka, County of Humboldt, State of California. The Project is located in Section 22, T4N, R1W, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Fields Landing U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 304-031-030, 304-231-012, 304-231-032, and 304-231-014.

Project Description: The Project is limited to 7 encroachments for the mechanical removal and modification of 8 channel-spanning live trees and associated woody debris from the channel of Elk River. Compensatory habitat-enhancement activities include Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) removal and the planting and monitoring of 50 Pacific willow (Salix lasiandra) and 50 black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*); post-implementation monitoring of the Project's tree planting activities shall occur for a minimum of 3 years, or until 80% survival is achieved. Pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 1602 and 1603, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued a streambed alteration agreement (EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-HUM-70223-R1C) for the Project.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Matthew Metheny
2820 Clover Way, Unit B
Arcata, California 95521
707-267-4635
mmetheny@caltrout.org

Exempt Status: On October 16, 2026, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), as the CEQA lead agency for the Project, determined the Project is categorically exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333 (Class 33). Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), if the lead agency determines a

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project is exempt from CEQA, that determination is final and conclusive on all persons, including responsible agencies. As a result, CDFW, as a responsible agency for the Project, is bound by the Regional Board's exemption determination.

CDFW Contact Person: Jonathan Hollis, Environmental Scientist, (707) 601-7237, jonathan.hollis@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Michael van Hattem 689BB18539B6406... *Date:* 11/4/2026

Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at LCI: