

# Notice of Exemption



**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
*For U.S. Mail:*  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region  
619 Second Street  
Eureka, California 95501

*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Garcia River Estuary Enhancement Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MEN-27808-R1C and Restoration Management Permit No. 2081(a)-2022-002-R1)

**Project Location:** The Project is located within the Garcia River watershed, approximately three miles northwest of the City of Point Arena, County of Mendocino, State of California. The Project is located in Section 34, T13N, R17W, Mendocino Base and Meridian; in the Point Arena U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 133-030-10-00, 133-030-13, 133-030-17, 133-030-18, and 133-030-19; latitude 38.947721 N and longitude -123.730983 W.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Number EPIMS-MEN-27808-R1C pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602 and issued Restoration Management Permit Number 2081(a)-2022-002-R1 pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a), for The Nature Conservancy's Garcia River Enhancement Project (Project). The Project will occur in the middle estuary and encompasses a half-mile reach of the mainstem Garcia River from river miles 0.58 to 1.1 and the adjacent upper and lower floodplains on the south side of the river. The goal of the Project is to improve and increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat in the Garcia River estuary by installing in-channel wood structures and the creation of off-channel, low water flow habitat to reconnect the Garcia River with adjacent floodplain habitat. The Project requires in-water work to place two engineered large wood structures (LWS) in the river and install two temporary floating bridges. The remaining 16 LWS will be installed along the banks of the Garcia River and include seven engineered log jams along the channel bank, a long bank jam along the northern channel bank to stabilize it, and a deflection engineered log jam at the upper most limit of the Project to reduce ongoing erosion on the north bank and maintain fish access to the new upper floodplain. In both the upper and lower floodplains, off-channel, seasonally flooded wetlands will be excavated, and large wood will be placed at their inlets.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Nature Conservancy

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (statutory exemption for restoration projects)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** See attachment

**CDFW Contact Person:** Jennifer Garrison, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, (707) 477-7792

DocuSigned by:  
*Rebecca Garwood*  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Garwood, Environmental Program Manager

5/27/2022  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



## ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

### **Garcia River Estuary Enhancement Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MEN-27808-R1C and Restoration Management Permit No. 2081(a)-2022-002-R1)**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Number EPIMS-MEN-27808-R1C (LSAA) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602 and issued Restoration Management Permit Number 2081(a)-2022-002-R1 (RMP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a), for The Nature Conservancy's Garcia River Enhancement Project (Project). The Project will occur in the middle estuary and encompasses a half-mile reach of the mainstem Garcia River from river miles 0.58 to 1.1 and the adjacent upper and lower floodplains on the south side of the river. The goal of the Project is to improve and increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat in the Garcia River estuary by installing in-channel wood structures and the creation of off-channel, low water flow habitat to reconnect the Garcia River with adjacent floodplain habitat. The Project requires in-water work to place two engineered large wood structures (LWS) in the river and install two temporary floating bridges. The remaining 16 LWS will be installed along the banks of the Garcia River and include seven engineered log jams along the channel bank, a long bank jam along the northern channel bank to stabilize it, and a deflection engineered log jam at the upper most limit of the Project to reduce ongoing erosion on the north bank and maintain fish access to the new upper floodplain. In both the upper and lower floodplains, off-channel, seasonally flooded wetlands will be excavated and large wood will be placed at their inlets.

CDFW approved the LSAA and RMP relying on the California Environmental Quality Act CEQA statutory exemption for restoration projects (SERP) (Cal. Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.56). The Project falls within the SERP because the Project meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration.

The CDFW California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects Concurrence Number 21080.56-2021-001-R1 for the Project provides more detailed information on the Project's SERP eligibility; that concurrence is available at the following CDFW webpage: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>