

## Notice of Exemption

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch  
**Street Address:**  
1010 Riverside Pkwy  
West Sacramento, CA 95605



**For U.S. Mail:**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**Project Title:** Tuolumne River Mainstem Channel Restoration Upstream of Old La Grange Bridge Project (Project)

**Project Location (Stanislaus County):** The Project is located within and adjacent to the Tuolumne River, centered at coordinates 37.665740, -120.460550, near the community of La Grange, in the County of Stanislaus, California.

**Project Description:** On November 21, 2023, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) awarded a \$5,464,129 grant from Proposition 68 and Drought – Protecting Salmon funding to the Turlock Irrigation District for implementation of the Project. The Project is designed to primarily benefit Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and California Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) via the restoration of channel morphology from lake-cascade to more natural pool-riffle sequences, conducive to the preferred spawning habitat of salmonids.

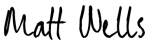
**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Turlock Irrigation District

**Exempt Status:**  Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** CDFW has determined that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation's August 24, 2022, initial determination as lead agency that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive; and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the CDFW Director's October 28, 2022, concurrence with that Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation determination, which is available at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences).

**CDFW Contact Person:** Megan Rooney, Environmental Scientist, (559) 203-2792, [megan.rooney@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:megan.rooney@wildlife.ca.gov)

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11/21/2023  
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Matt Wells, Branch Chief

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