

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:**

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

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 South Coast Region  
 3883 Ruffin Road  
 San Diego, CA 92123  
 Andrew.Aitken@wildlife.ca.gov



**Project Title:** The Great LA River Cleanup (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-LAN-30125-R5)

**Project Location (Los Angeles County):** The project is located at 14 different locations along the Los Angeles River. Cleanup efforts will be focused on natural bottom sections of the river at the Sepulveda Basin, Glendale Narrows, and near the estuaries at the mouth of the river near Long Beach. The 14 specific cleanup locations are: Sepulveda Basin, Bull Creek, South Reserve, Bette Davis Picnic Area, Glendale Riverwalk, North Atwater Park, Bond Park, Red Car Bridge, Lewis MacAdams Park, Elysian Valley Park, Maywood Riverfront Park, Steelhead Park, Compton Creek, and Willow Street Estuary.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-LAN-30125-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Friends of the Los Angeles River as represented by Jason Schlatter.

The project is limited to the annual cleanup and removal of trash and debris from the Los Angeles River. Volunteers assisting the Friends of the Los Angeles River will implement the cleanup efforts, and all trash and debris removal will only be done by hand. A Qualified Biologist shall talk to the participants and cover any and all environmental concerns with an emphasis on avoiding nesting birds. Biological surveys shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project-related activities for the season at a site. During these surveys, all sensitive habitat and nesting sites shall be flagged for avoidance. Cleanup events will only take place between June 21 and November 30 annually. Project-related activities shall result in temporary impacts to the Los Angeles River due to accessing the work area to remove trash and debris. On an average year, approximately 50,000 pounds of trash is removed from the Los Angeles River. It is anticipated that cleanup efforts at each Project site will last approximately three (3) hours; however, for sites in need of extra stewardship, cleanup efforts may persist for up to six (6) hours.

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

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER**

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.  
 Categorical Exemption. Type – Class (1); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section (15301)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Class 1 addresses operation, maintenance, repair, or minor alteration of existing facilities or topographical features. This includes the maintenance of wildlife habitat areas, streamflows, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources. The project proposes to remove trash and debris by hand from sections of the Los Angeles River, focusing on soft bottom sections. Any temporary impacts will be restored to pre-project conditions. No permanent impacts will occur as a result.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Andrew Aitken, Environmental Scientist, (562) 525-9688, Andrew.Aitken@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:   
 Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Environmental Program Manager

Date: 7/12/2023

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