

## Notice of Exemption

**To:**

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

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001



**Project Title:** Wood Creek Phase III – Off-Channel Rearing Habitat Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2023-0007-R1)

**Project Location (Humboldt County):**

The Project is located on Wood Creek, which is a tributary of lower Freshwater Creek. The Project is located in the County of Humboldt, State of California; Latitude 40.782393 and Longitude -124.090846; Assessor’s Parcel Number 403-071-060-000.

**Project Description:** On December 15, 2023, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued this Restoration Management Permit (RMP) pursuant to section 2081(a) of the Fish and Game Code to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. This Project will improve overall ecological function and restore natural processes in Wood Creek within both freshwater and estuarine habitat. The Project includes rerouting and reconfiguring Wood Creek, creating and connecting off-channel habitat, installing large wood features, and planting native species. The Project is expected to benefit Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), referred to as the Covered Species. The Project is estimated to take (pursue, catch, capture and relocation) 1000 juvenile Coho Salmon and 50 Longfin Smelt adults and 10 Longfin Smelt juveniles; the Project may also result in take (incidental mortality) of 30 juvenile Coho Salmon and 5 Longfin Smelt adults and 1 Longfin Smelt juveniles during construction of the Project. Permittee is authorized to relocate the Covered Species out of harm’s way to suitable habitat. CDFW has determined and expects that the Project will benefit, aid in the conservation of, and assist in the recovery of the Covered Species. This notice is to advise that CDFW issued the above-described RMP on the date signed below.

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

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** County of Humboldt

**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) County of Humboldt’s May 9, 2023, 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 [date that SERP Concurrence was signed by CDFW Director], concurrence with that Humboldt County 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:**

Nick Van Vleet (Senior Environmental Scientist); Phone: 707-298-4175 Email: [Nicholas.VanVleet@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.VanVleet@wildlife.ca.gov)

Signature: Michael van Hattem Date: 12/15/2023

Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

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