

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: The Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation (LARERR) Reach 8A Project (Reach 8A Project)

Project Location (Los Angeles County): The Reach 8A Project is located at The Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation (LARERR) Reach 8A Project (Reach 8A Project) is located within the Los Angeles River (LA River) from the downstream side of the N Main Street crossing to 1,300 feet downstream of the N Main Street crossing (approximately one quarter mile). The coordinates for the most upstream location are approximately 34.067471, -118.224523 and coordinates for the downstream extent are approximately 34.063516, -118.226110.

Project Description: On March 13, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) awarded a \$2,093,840 grant from the Drought Resilience – Protecting Salmon funding to the City of Los Angeles for the Reach 8A Project. The Reach 8A Project is designed to benefit southern California steelhead to the upper tributaries of the Los Angeles River. The Reach 8A Project will benefit southern California steelhead by improving fish passage within a quarter mile section of the LA River. Currently, this section of the LA River is concrete-lined and no vegetation is present. This Reach 8A Project includes restoration elements of reintroduction of ecological and natural physical processes for a more natural hydrologic and hydraulic regime that reconnects historic floodplains and tributaries and reduces flow velocities. Restoration elements of the Reach 8A Project will include installation of an inset channel adjacent to the existing low flow channel; installation of anchored boulder clusters; placement of resting pockets for steelhead; and installation of vegetated habitat features (including planter boxes and weepholes/penetrations through the channel lining) to allow for vegetation establishment within the channel.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Los Angeles

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 Reach 8A Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) the City of Los Angeles February 6, 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 March 14, 2023 concurrence with that the City of Los Angeles determination, which is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences.

CDFW Contact Person: Olivia Johnson, Steelhead Recovery and Restoration, (805) 794-9547, olivia.johnson@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Signature: Matt Wells *Date:* 3/14/2024
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Matt Wells, Branch Chief

Date received for filing at OPR: _____