

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(Address)

Project Title: CDFW Pilot Studies to Inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

North Yuba River watershed, upstream of New Bullards Bar Dam and Reservoir and d

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Yuba and Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Pilot Studies (Project) to inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program consists of studies to evaluate the feasibility of reintroducing Spring-run Chinook salmon to the North Yuba River to expand their range to include historic habitat suitable to increase its resiliency. Studies include evaluating and refining methods for egg incubation; juvenile collection, monitoring, and transport; habitat utilization; and parentage based tagging.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Central Region

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Central Region

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 14 CCR §15306 Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

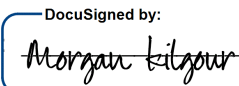
Reasons why project is exempt:

See attachment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Michelle Forsha Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 618-3376

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature  _____ Date: 9/24/2024 Title: Regional Manager, North Central Region

C3A86764C0AD4F6...
 Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4599
916-358-2900
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION Pilot Studies to Inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), by and through its North Central Region Manager, has taken final action to approve implementation of Pilot Studies (Project) to Inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program. In taking its final agency action for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CDFW approved the Project relying on Categorical Exemption Class 6 Information Collection ([14 CCR § 15306](#)).

Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon, a species listed as Threatened under the federal and State Endangered Species Act, have been extirpated from the North Yuba River due to impassable rim dams. The Project consists of studies to evaluate the feasibility of reintroducing Spring-run Chinook salmon to the North Yuba River to expand their range to include historic habitat suitable to increase its resiliency. The Project includes conducting Pilot Studies focused on evaluating and refining methods for Spring-run Chinook Salmon egg incubation; juvenile collection, monitoring, and transport; habitat utilization; and parentage-based tagging.

The Class 6 Categorical Exemption applies to information collection. Specifically, a project is exempt from further review under CEQA if the project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This exemption is applicable because the Project only includes data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, collectively referred to as Pilot Studies to inform the North Yuba River Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Program (Program). The Pilot Studies will inform further CDFW actions for the Program which have not yet been approved, adopted, or funded. Further, this exemption is applicable because exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions ([14 CCR § 15300.2](#)) have been reviewed and found not applicable to the Project.