

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: Stanislaus

From: (Public Agency): Stanislaus County

Department of Public Works

1010 10th St, Ste 4204, Modesto, CA 95354

(Address)

Project Title: Zanker Farm Salmonid Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Trout Unlimited

Project Location - Specific:

Lower Tuolumne River from River Mile 45.2 to River Mile 46.7

Project Location - City: None

Project Location - County: Stanislaus

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Restoration of the Zanker Project Area was identified as high priority in the Lower Tuolumne River Corridor Restoration Plan due to degraded channel and habitat conditions following gold mining and streamflow regulation. Restoration of the Project Reach aims to replace a single large, homogeneous, deep, bedrock-bottom pool with a diversity of riffles, pools, gravel bars, side channels, and floodplain habitats to increase salmonid spawning habitat and benefit all life stages of salmonids. Outside of the channel, the Project aims to remediate the impacts of historical dredger mining, which inverted the soil profile and left floodplain and terrace surfaces armored with gravel and cobble. The Project will excavate remnant scraped dredger mine tailings from floodplain and terrace surfaces on the Zanker Farm, wash and sort the gravel, and then place the gravel in-channel. The remaining excavated floodplain surfaces will be restored to a finer sediment substrate and then revegetated, providing rearing habitat at higher flows as well as opportunities for riparian forest recovery.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Stanislaus County Department of Public Works

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Trout Unlimited

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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code section 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Zanker Farm Salmonid Restoration Project is a river restoration project that meets all requirements described in Public Resources Code section 21080.56 for CDFW's Statutory Exemption for Restoration Project. CDFW has concurred on 03/27/25 that the project meets all requirements and is exempt.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Andrew Malizia, PE

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 525-4302

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: [Signature] Date: 03/27/2025 Title: Deputy Director of Public Works

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: 03/28/25