



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
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Fresno, California 93710
(559) 243-4005
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



To:
Office of Planning and Research
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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (Southern DPS) Headstarting and Population Augmentation

Project Location (Merced, San Francisco, Tuolumne County): The project will occur at several locations depending on activities conducted.

Donor Sites: Yosemite National Park, between Highway 49 and Highway 120. Individual donor sites centered around: North Fork of the Merced River: -120.037, 37.750. Hell Hollow: -120.137, 37.610. Sherlock Creek: -120.056, 37.584. Indian Creek: -120.154, 37.883. Grapevine Creek: -120.147, 37.885. Moccasin: -120.307, 37.814. Priest: -120.265, 37.800.

Receiving Sites: Individual receiving sites centered around: Moss Creek: -119.818, 37.672. Cold Canyon Creek: -119.806, 37.659. Crane Creek: -119.777, 37.680, Indian Creek: -119.766, 37.670.

Captive Rearing Sites: San Francisco Zoo, San Francisco CA.

Project Description: The proposed recovery actions include captive-rearing FYLFs at San Francisco Zoo and Gardens, following successful programs for other California Endangered Species Act listed endangered anurans that the Zoo and partners have developed since 2013 (and supported by a long-term Memorandum of Understanding between the Zoo and CDFW). Rather than captive-breed frogs, the applicant plans to captive-rear or collect partial egg masses or tadpoles from the wild for rearing for one year. The applicant proposes collecting up to 400 eggs (targeting 50 eggs from 8 separate egg masses) or tadpoles during breeding in the spring (i.e., April–May). Zoo experts will rear the eggs through metamorphosis and release frogs after they meet the minimum snout-vent length for individual marking, likely in June–July of the following year. The frogs will not be held at the Zoo for longer than one year.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

San Francisco Zoo and Gardens
Dr. Rochelle Stiles

(415) 753-7287

Director of Field Conservation

rochelles@sfzoo.org

Sloat BLVD. & Upper Great Highway
San Francisco, CA, 94132

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption.

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 7 Categorical Exemption applies to proposed “actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources” projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, 21000 et seq.). The proposed project involves re-establishing populations of an endangered species to historically occupied locations, which is required to achieve recovery. The project is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to the environment.

CDFW Contact Person: Margarita Gordus, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor) (559) 207-6681, Margarita.Gordus@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  _____ Date: 4/30/2025

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____