



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Director's Office  
Post Office Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

*GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



May 22, 2024

Robert Pennington  
Professional Geologist  
Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department  
2550 Venture Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
[Robert.Pennington@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Robert.Pennington@sonoma-county.org)

**California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects – Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project (Request No. 21080.56-2024-052-R3)**

Dear Robert Pennington:

I am pleased to inform you as the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that I concur with the lead agency determination by the Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department that the Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.56, subd. (e).) My concurrence as the CDFW Director is based on CDFW's independent review of the Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department request for concurrence, which CDFW received on February 28, 2024. In my opinion, informed by the best available science and described in the separate CDFW concurrence, the Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project meets all the qualifying criteria in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

This concurrence signifies the continued commitment by CDFW and its partners in advancing the "Cutting the Green Tape" initiative, which is a collaborative effort to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects in California in a way that protects the environment and results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery. CDFW stands ready to continue this effort in coordination with the Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department.

CDFW's concurrence will be posted on our website as provided by Public Resources Code section 21080.56. If you have any related questions, please contact Brad Henderson, Cutting the Green Tape Program Manager, at (530) 351-5948, or by email at [Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Robert Pennington  
Professional Geologist  
Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department  
May 22, 2024  
Page 2

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Valerie Termini  
Chief Deputy Director

Josh Grover, Deputy Director  
Ecosystem Conservation Division

Erin Chappell, Regional Manager  
Bay Delta Region (Region 3)

Steven Ingram, Assistant Chief Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel

Brian Hennes, Attorney III  
Office of the General Counsel

Brad Henderson, Environmental Program Manager  
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch

Desiree Dela Vega, Environmental Scientist  
Bay Delta Region (Region 3)