



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
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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

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.

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Robert Pennington
Professional Geologist
Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department
May 22, 2024
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cc: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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