

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Aquatic Surveys on Northcoast Regional Land Trust Property

Project Location: Humboldt Bay watershed

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Northcoast Regional Land Trust (NCRLT) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample fish within Humboldt Bay watershed for the Aquatic Surveys on Northcoast Regional Land Trust Property. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the NCRLT to incidentally take Longfin Smelt during the course of its sampling subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The data gathered will describe life history strategies of juvenile salmonids, provide pre and post habitat restoration project conditions, and provide information to NCRLT to better manage their lands. NCRLT will sample river mile (RM) 0-1 of Wood Creek (tributary to Freshwater Creek Slough) and RM 0-1 of Martin Slough (tributary to Elk River Slough) to collect water quality and fish monitoring data within the Humboldt Bay watershed. Covered methods of take are limited to minnow trap and beach seine.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Karlee Jewell, Principle Investigator, Northcoast Regional Land Trust.

Exempt Status:

☐ Ministerial;

☐ Declared Emergency;

☐ Emergency Project;

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Information Collection, Class 6.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research and the collection of information to measure the effectiveness of past and ongoing habitat restoration projects which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, *Spirinchus thaleichthys*, a threatened species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Corianna Flannery
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Area Code/Telephone/ Extension:

Signature:


Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Date: 4/28/2020

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____