

ATTACHMENT 4



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor  
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
[wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

May 27, 2026

Jason Vasques  
Executive Director  
California Tahoe Conservancy

Sent via email to [Jason.Vasques@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.Vasques@tahoe.ca.gov)

## **Subject: California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects – Ward Creek Restoration Project (Request No. 21080.56-2026-105-R2)**

Dear Jason Vasquez:

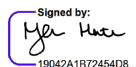
I am pleased to inform you as the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that I concur with the lead agency determination by the California Tahoe Conservancy that the Ward Creek Restoration Project qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project under the California Environmental 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 Ward Creek Restoration Project request for concurrence, which CDFW received on April 16, 2026. In my opinion, informed by the best available science and described in the separate CDFW concurrence, the Ward Creek 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 California Tahoe Conservancy.

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California Tahoe Conservancy  
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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,

Signed by:  
  
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Meghan Hertel, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

ec: Valerie Termini  
Chief Deputy Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Steven Ingram  
Assistant Chief Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Brian Hennes  
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Deputy Director  
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Morgan Kilgour, PhD  
Regional Manager  
North Central Region (Region 2)  
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California Tahoe Conservancy  
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Zachary Kearns  
Environmental Scientist  
North Central Region (Region 2)  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Briana Seapy  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)  
North Central Region (Region 2)  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Brad Henderson  
Environmental Program Manager  
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife