

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

County Clerk
 County of: MENDOCINO
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

410 Jones St, STE C-3
Ukiah, CA 95482
 (Address)

Project Title: Little Mill Creek (Navarro River) Groundwater Recharge Project

Project Applicant: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

Nelson & Williams, 14000 and 14100 Moore Homestead Road, Philo, CA 39.142984, -123.4885453

Project Location - City: Philo, CA Project Location - County: MENDOCINO

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose and primary goal of the proposed project is to improve groundwater recharge to augment dry season streamflow in the Little Mill Creek watershed. Little Mill Creek, a tributary of Mill Creek and thence the Navarro River, plays a critical role in providing streamflow to support valuable habitat for both coho salmon and steelhead trout within Mill Creek. Due to legacy impacts from land management practices and ongoing water diversions, the streams of the Navarro watershed are impaired and often do not provide sufficient habitat for these populations. The project proposes to enhance coho salmon juvenile rearing habitat by increasing dry-season streamflow via restoration of a deeply incised gully that lowers the local water table. Installation of log and rock grade control structures, raising the elevation of the channel bed, and increasing floodplain connectivity would enhance groundwater recharge and retention times to increase dry season streamflow. The total disturbed area includes approximately 610 linear feet along an unnamed tributary to Little Mill Creek. To accomplish project goals, construction activities would include heavy equipment work in the degraded channel to install log and rock grade control structures. The project strives to achieve a cut and fill balance to reduce the need to haul soil to and from the site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: §15333: Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The MCRCD has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following section(s) of the California Administrative Code: Section §15333: Small Habitat Restoration Projects. The proposed project provides stream restoration to increase dry season streamflow and restore critical aquatic habitat. Improving groundwater recharge is expected to result in net beneficial effects to Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout habitats. The total area would not exceed 5 acres in size. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect scenic resources, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, scenic highways, or result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances. The project does not exhibit potential for cumulative impacts. The proposal does not include work impacting culturally or historically significant resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Joe Scriven Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 462-3664 Ext. 104

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 8.22.2024 Title: Assistant Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

2024-E0057
 Recorded at the request of:
 MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DIS
 08/22/2024 01:40 PM
 Fee: \$50.00 Pgs: 1 of 1
 OFFICIAL RECORDS
 Katrina Bartolomie - Clerk-Recorder
 Mendocino County, CA

POSTED FROM 8/22/24 TO 9/23/24

