

Notice of Exemption

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To:

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 1 – Northern
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Title: HCDPW East Branch South Fork Eel River Road Repair (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0219-R1)

Project Location: The project is located within the East Branch South Fork Eel River watershed, approximately 5 miles south of the town of Garberville, County of Humboldt, State of California. The project is located in Section 31, T4S, R4E, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Garberville U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 033-081-011.

Project Description: The project is limited to 1 encroachment (40.0740, -123.7809). The project is to repair an actively failing stream bank and associated hillslope in association with a county road. Work for this encroachment will include excavation, backfilling and compaction of fill, bioremediation and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion. Roadway repair activities include reconstruction of a 400-foot lineal foot section of lost roadway and include constructing a bio-engineered streambank stabilization feature. To restore the road to pre-disaster function and capacity a bio-engineered Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) embankment will be installed. A 36-inch diameter corrugated steel riser will be installed on the inboard side of the roadway. A 50-foot long by 24-inch diameter buried culvert and a 50-foot long by 48-foot diameter down drain will be installed to drain the inboard ditch.

Bioengineering techniques, which will include incorporating willow mats and tree plantings, will be an essential part of the design. The bioengineering component will also help with future erosion and scour of the embankment. The embankment will consist of a 5-foot high section of rock buttress at the toe of the embankment. Large rock will need to be keyed into the bank of the of the East Branch. The project will install a 1-foot section of bio-stabilized embankment on top of the rock buttress with willow cuttings, a 4-foot section of rock buttress, another 1-foot section of willow cuttings and another 4-foot section of rock buttress covered with willow cuttings. All armoring will be 2 to 4 ton. This will provide for a steeper slope and minimal project footprint. The proposed project will not result in expansion of the roadway, but instead will repair and restore the pre-disaster conditions.

There will be approximately 12,000-13,000 square feet of vegetation removal. Almost all the vegetation is within the active slide area (disturbed) and contains no tree removal. Due to the active nature of the slide, trees and more permanent vegetation are not currently present. A revegetation plan will be submitted to CDFW.

In order to excavate the "toe-trench" to embed the large rock at the base of the stabilization project, an excavator will be positioned at or near bankfull. From this position, the bucket will excavate portions of the wetted channel to place armoring. Isolation fencing will be placed in the wetted channel adjacent to the proposed bank excavation, to control turbidity. A water diversion plan will be submitted to CDFW prior to construction.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Devin Theobald, Humboldt County Department of Public Works

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 2; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15302

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Reasons why project is exempt: The project replaces an existing structure where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitat pursuant to §15065. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

CDFW Contact Person: Nicholas Simpson (Senior Environmental Scientist-Specialist), (707) 445-6512

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Cheri Sanville, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: _____ **Jul 02 2020**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE