

Notice of Exemption

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: Pine Hill Road Swain Slough Bridge Replacement Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2018-0449-R1)

Project Location: The project to be completed is located within the Elk River watershed, approximately 3.5 miles S/SW of the town of Eureka, County of Humboldt, State of California. The project is located in Section 04, T04N, R01W, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Eureka U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 302-181-008; latitude 40.7526 N and longitude 124.1826 W at the stream crossing.

Project Description: This Agreement relies on the Notification materials and CDFW site inspections by Environmental Scientist Greg O'Connell on January 28, 2020, and February 05, 2020. The project is limited to one encroachment (Table 1). The encroachment is for the replacement of a three-span timber-stringer County bridge over Swain Slough on Pine Street. The project entails removing an existing municipal water line attached to the existing bridge and relocating the water line underground using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) technology. After the water line is relocated, the existing bridge and support structures will be removed prior to the installation of new abutments and a single span concrete deck bridge. The project includes a non-standard design element for hydraulic clearance. The proposed bridge deck has been designed to remain dry during the 100-year flow; however, the Notification proposes a soffit elevation 2.6 feet below 50-year flood water surface elevations and 3.2 feet below 100-year elevations. The Notification suggests Swain Slough, Martin Slough, and Elk River form one large backwater during high flow events coupled with high tides. Under these circumstances the bridge is not accessible due to flooding from the adjacent County roads. The Notification states that conveyance under the bridge is not a limiting factor because each of these waterways exceed their banks during high flows. However, the proposed bridge footings have been sized for a taller bridge and jacking points have been detailed in the design plans to facilitate elevating the bridge to accommodate modifications for future sea level rise.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Andrew Bundschuh, Humboldt County Department of Public Works

Exempt Status:

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

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: Cheri Sanville (Environmental Scientist), (707) 441-5901

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Cheri Sanville, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: _____