

Notice of Exemption

- 1 -

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: McKee Creek Colluvial Flow and Habitat Enhancement Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-19794-R1)

Project Location: The project is located within the Mattole River watershed, approximately nine miles west/southwest of the town of Garberville, Humboldt County, California; Section 28, T04S, R02E, Humboldt Base and Meridian, in the Briceland U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 220-082-019; latitude 40.0788 N and longitude 123.9546 W at the location of proposed stream restoration.

Project Description: The project is limited to one encroachment. The encroachment is for stream flow restoration on McKee Creek. The project design includes placement of instream habitat structures, including: 23 whole trees, 10 check dams, 12 channel-spanning log and boulder weirs, four valley-spanning log weirs/trench walls, one boulder weir, two boulder clusters, and six high flow backwater log jams. Floodplain connectivity will be achieved through strategic grading and placement of streambed material obtained from the grading at weir locations. The material for the clay and gravel wedge will be sourced from adjacent floodplains where strategic grading will be performed. Gravel and/or clay may be sourced locally, if needed, to augment the onsite material. Imported clay will be used in limited amounts only if the Project is unable to obtain local clay. Old logging roads will be temporarily reopened for access and materials delivery from the Briceland Thorn Road at two locations. The overall project area for the Project is approximately 1.2 acres, including access routes and staging areas. Work for this encroachment will include excavation, backfilling and compaction of fill, and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: April Newlander, Sanctuary Forest Inc.

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15333

Reasons why project is exempt: The project purpose is stream flow and habitat restoration and does not exceed five acres in size. 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: Greg O'Connell (Environmental Scientist), Gregory.OConnell@Wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 8/3/2021
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Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: _____