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From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
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SUBJECT: *Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108*

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Title: PG&E Garberville Junction-Laytonville Stream Restoration Plan (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MEN-13441-R1)

Project Location: The project is located within the South Fork Eel River watershed, approximately 8.5 miles north of the town of Laytonville, County of Mendocino, State of California; Section 33, T 23N, R 15W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian, in the Tan Oak Park U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 053-530-RW; latitude 39.8021 N and longitude 123.5427 W at the stream restoration site.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number EPIMS-MEN-13441-R1, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Pacific Gas & Electric Craig Geldard.

The project is limited to one encroachment. The encroachment is for culvert removal, stream restoration, and revegetation on an unnamed tributary to Rattlesnake Creek. Implementation of PG&E's Wildfire Safety Inspection Program in November 2019 resulted in impacts to streambed habitat of the unnamed tributary. The unsanctioned work included installing an 18" diameter culvert and grading a road to access a nearby structure. Up the road from the crossing at the structure pad, earthmoving activities occurred to accommodate heavy equipment for repair of a power transmission pole. PG&E has self-reported the unpermitted activity which impacted the stream channel. The project includes decommissioning an access road and removing an undersized and improperly installed culvert. Additional activities to reduce erosion and sediment impacts include 1) decommissioning the access road, installing cross road drains, and applying erosion controls along the access road; and 2) removing debris, restoring contours of the structure pad to promote natural sheet flow and applying erosion controls at the structure pad location. In-stream work for this encroachment will include excavation and removal of the unpermitted culvert. Stream restoration activities such as bank stabilization, grading, channel clearing and revegetation are proposed to return the channel to natural conditions using an undisturbed upstream reference reach as a guide. If work for this encroachment is interrupted from early rain events, interim erosion control measures will be implemented to prevent sediment delivery to waters of the State.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Craig Geldard, Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is small habitat restoration; the primary purpose is to restore a stream channel and bank for fish and wildlife. 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.

Reasons why project is exempt: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 19, Section 15333 Small Habitat Restoration projects.

Signature

Date:

Cheri Sanville, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____