

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard
Santa Rosa CA, 95403
Phone 707-576-2220
Fax 707-523-0135
Email: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Project Title: Scott River Tailings "Oasis" Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific: 41.364699° N, 122.825209° W

Project Location – City: Callahan

Project Location - County: Siskiyou

Description of Project: The purpose of the Project is to improve instream and floodplain conditions for anadromous salmonids, specifically SONCC coho, as well as other aquatic species along a 0.37-kilometer-long reach of the Scott River dominated by Yuba Dredge tailings.

The goals of the Project are to: Increase inchannel complexity and roughness within the Scott River Yuba Dredge Mine Tailings (Tailings) by the construction of instream Engineered Log Jams (ELJs); Create instream pools associated with the ELJs to offer migrating adult and juvenile coho salmon and other aquatic organisms low velocity resting areas during migration, thereby improving fish passage success through the Tailings; Create hydraulic diversity with instream ELJs to generate fine sediment storage and streambed substrate sorting to promote riparian vegetation success and improve spawning conditions for Chinook salmon; Improve floodplain roughness with floodplain log structures to sort substrate and to capture fines to reduce instream fine sediment load and promote riparian vegetation success; and Increase native riparian plant density by planting, increasing fine sediment deposition and soil water holding capacity, which will result in eventual improvements instream shade and primary food sources for fish.

To achieve these goals, the Project will install up to 20 instream ELJs, 40 floodplain log structures, and extensive native riparian vegetation, which will increase in-channel complexity, slow water refugial habitat for migrating adult and juvenile salmonids, capture and deposit fine sediment, and increase sorting of sediment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Scott River Watershed Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1): (5268):
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)):
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21 080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption; Section 15333 Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- Statutory Exemptions; State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: This small habitat restoration project does not exceeding five acres in size and will restore and enhance habitat for coho and Chinook salmon.

Lead Agency Contact: Jake Shannon

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-576-2673

Signature: JAKE SHANNON

Date: September 26, 2022 **Title:** Restoration Specialist

- Signed by Lead Agency
 - Signed by Applicant
- Date received for filing at OPR: _____