



CERTIFICATION OF CEQA EXEMPTION FINDING

Project Title: 2023 Storms and Floods Emergency Work
Project Location: In Pescadero Creek at locations adjacent to properties along Pescadero Creek Road.
City and County: Pescadero, San Mateo County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) will coordinate flood response services for Pescadero Creek in San Mateo County (County) to help prevent future damage from flooding and to aid in the recovery of ongoing damages from flooding. This project covers short term, immediate needs for Pescadero Creek to implement mitigation actions that reduce the extent of flooding to public and private infrastructure, with a focus on public safety, protecting public roadways for emergency access/egress, and the emergency evacuation center at the Pescadero High School. Priority sites have been identified where large log jams that have formed that are increasing flooding onto public roadways that are used for emergency services and public egress and evacuations. To mitigate these issues the project involves removal of wood and other debris that has been racked up in the creek posing flooding and erosion threats to critical infrastructure. Note that the logjams are dynamic and mobile and may be in different locations when the RCD is able to address them, or may have split up, multiplied, or grown in size. Care will be taken to differentiate between wood elements that are critical to retain for wildlife habitat and stability of creek banks, as wood is a natural part of the stream system and a natural bank stabilizer.

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project:

San Mateo Resource Conservation District
Sara Polgar
80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EXEMPT STATUS:

Statutory Exemption: Emergency Project [CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15269(c)]

REMARKS: See next page.

Contact Person: Sara Polgar Telephone: (650) 712-7765

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.

January 10, 2023
Date of determination

Sara Polgar
Conservation Program Specialist

REMARKS:

The project meets the CEQA criteria for exemption from environmental review under Section 15269 (c) of the CEQA State Guidelines. This statutory exemption describes the following emergency projects:

(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

Removal of the racked up wood and other debris (logjams) from the creek is necessary to prevent or mitigate disruption of emergency response services and evacuation routes and damage to critical infrastructure and homes due to the flooding and erosion that these logjams will cause. These emergency impacts on public health and safety are already occurring in Pescadero and have a high likelihood of becoming much worse if this hazardous wood and debris are not removed. One of the logjams is increasing flooding onto public roadways used for emergency services, and public egress. Another, upstream logjam is threatening the local evacuation center. Furthermore, if the middle and upstream logjams combine with any downstream logjams, catastrophic flooding and erosion could occur.

Figure 1. Map of approximate locations of the logjams along Pescadero Creek in Pescadero, CA.

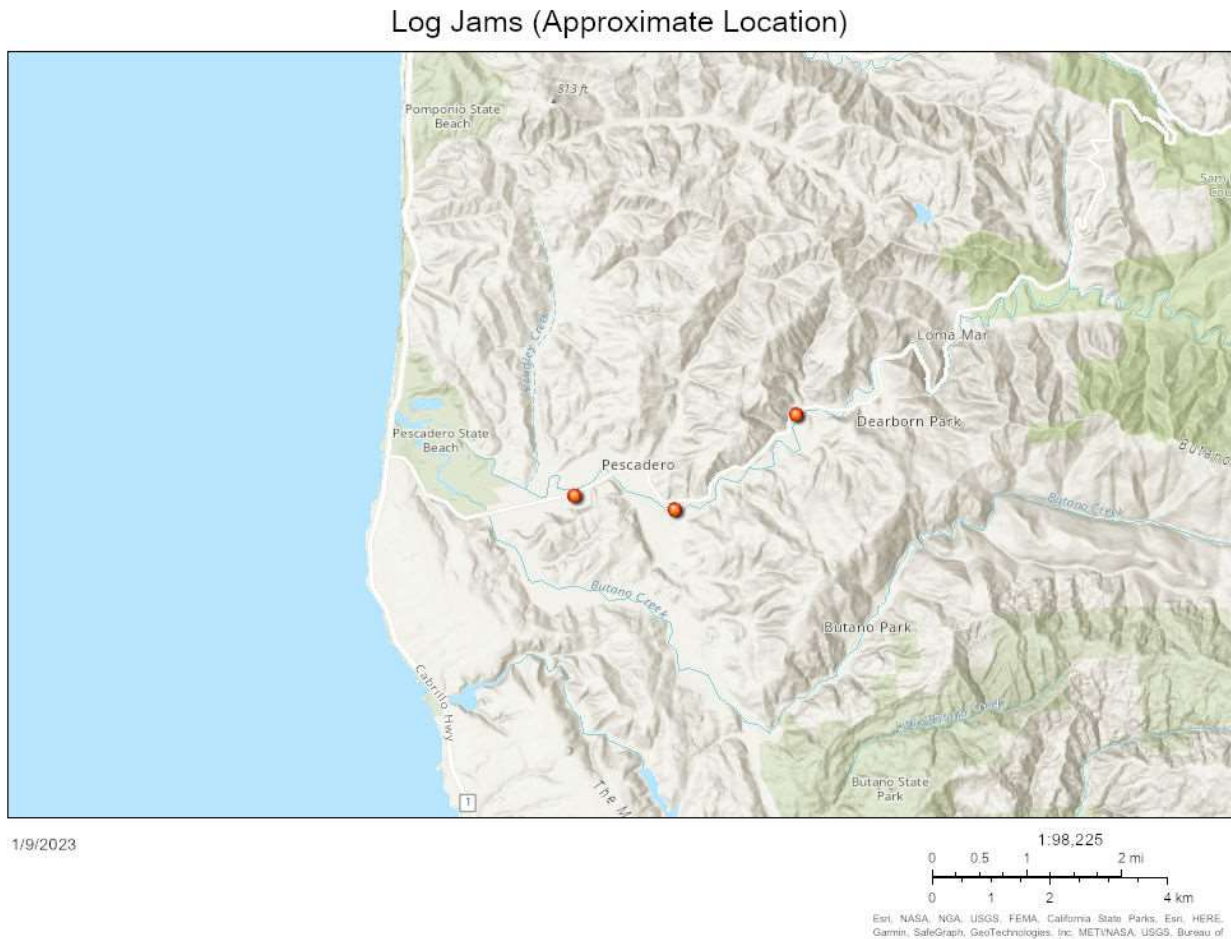


Figure 2. Photos showing logjams and flooding of the creek in Pescadero on January 9, 2023.

