

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Project Description: Bank Stabilization repairs in the riparian corridor necessary to support properties and roadways – Riparian Exception Permit 231057.

State Clearing House Number:


Person or Agency Proposing Project: Santa Cruz County Property Owners affected by the 2022-2023 winter storms.

- A. The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B. The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C. **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D. **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).

Specify type: 15269 (b). Emergency repairs to privately owned facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety and welfare.
 15269 (c). Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.

E. Reasons why the project is exempt:

On January 4th, 2023, the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, declared a state of emergency due to damage from the winter storms throughout California. There was significant damage to Santa Cruz County roads and infrastructure on December 30th due to an Atmospheric River Winter Storm. Several more storms from December 29th-January 16th caused widespread flooding, partially due to significant debris in the waterways, mudslides and debris flows, road washouts and road collapses, and power outages throughout the County. Due to continued storm events and a subsequent emergency declaration from the Governor on March 8th, the active period for the riparian exception permit has been extended through the duration of the declared emergencies. There has been significant streambank instability and landslides within riparian corridors that were damaged or destroyed by the atmospheric river storms. These streambanks must be reestablished to restore access to properties and safely clean and rebuild parcels.

DocuSigned by:


 Matt Johnston, Principal Planner

Date: 3/14/2023