
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Filed to: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Project Title: Pescadero Creek Habitat Enhancement Project at Pescadero Creek County Park

Project Location: 9500 Pescadero Creek Road, Loma Mar, CA 94021
Geographic coordinates are: 37.259032N, -122.239820W
APNs: 084130120 & 085150080

City and County: Unincorporated, San Mateo County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The goal of the project is to support Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon and CCC steelhead recovery by creating habitat features to improve creek conditions for these species and other aquatic wildlife. The project will use approximately 125 onsite trees for habitat features at 35 sites along Pescadero Creek through unanchored, direct felling methods (no heavy equipment). This will enhance approximately 2 miles of habitat for coho salmon and steelhead by creating the variety of habitat fish need to spawn, hide, rest, eat, and thrive.

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

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

Lead Agency
Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Stephanie MacDonald Telephone: 650-712-7765 ext. 118

EXEMPT STATUS:

Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Pub. Resources Code, 21080.56
Remarks: See next page.

Date of Determination: February 3, 2023

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



4/12/2023

Stephanie MacDonald, Conservation Project Manager

REMARKS:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director has concurred with the Lead Agency (San Mateo Resource Conservation District) Determination that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive (Concurrence).

The proposed Project will conserve, restore, protect, or enhance and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat on which they depend. Restoration actions will be implemented to restore natural function of the creek and ecosystem in order to provide improved habitat and feeding opportunities for salmonids, including the federally threatened CCC steelhead and federally endangered CCC coho salmon and to implement recommendations from the Pescadero-Butano Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The following provides a brief description of the project and an explanation for why the project has qualified for the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (Pub. Resources Code, 21080.56).

Project Description

The goal of the project is to support Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon and CCC steelhead recovery by installing large wood features to improve habitat conditions for these species and other aquatic wildlife. The project will install large wood features at 35 sites along Pescadero Creek through unanchored, direct felling methods (accelerated recruitment). This will enhance approximately 2 miles of habitat for coho salmon and steelhead by creating high- and low-flow refugia, slowing flows, sorting and storing sediment, providing cover in pools, and creating new pools. The wood features will be constructed using approximately 125 on-site trees that have been selected for direct felling based on field surveys. Pescadero Creek is a key watershed for the recovery of both CCC coho salmon and CCC steelhead and has been identified as having a low abundance of instream large wood, an essential habitat feature for salmonids. This project not only supports priority recovery actions identified in both the CCC coho salmon and CCC steelhead recovery plans, but also supports key watershed restoration actions identified in NOAA's Species in the Spotlight initiative for CCC coho salmon. Moreover, the project directly implements key recommendations in the Water Board's 2019 Pescadero-Butano Watershed TMDL for Sediment. All trees will be sourced onsite and are composed primarily of Douglas-fir and redwood, with additional red alders and tanoaks included in some structures. This project would create high-velocity refugia and areas of slack water within the project reach, provide cover for existing pools, create new pools and backwater habitat areas that contain cover, increase floodplain activation where feasible, and enhance overall habitat complexity while also reducing incision by building up the channel through sediment storage. No heavy equipment will be used and no ground disturbance, excavation or grading will take place.

Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Pub. Resources Code, 21080.56

The CDFW Director has concurred with the Lead Agency (San Mateo Resource Conservation District) Determination that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive (Concurrence).

The Project meets the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are

solely related to habitat restoration. The Project is consistent with and its implementation will further CDFW's mandate as California's trustee agency for fish and wildlife, including the responsibility to hold and manage these resources in trust for all the people of California. CDFW has provided a written concurrence that is available upon request.