

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: Smith River Estuary Backwater Habitat Enhancement Project

Project Location - Specific: 41.9119800° N, 124.18802° W

Project Location - City: Smith River

Project Location - County: Del Norte

Description of Project: The Project will enhance an existing backwater feature on the south bank of the Smith River by widening and deepening it to increase the duration and range of flows that juvenile and adult salmonids can access the habitat feature and by installing large wood structures to maintain the backwater entrance. Additionally, riparian habitat will be enhanced with native trees, shrubs and wetland plantings, and a new riparian fence will be installed to fully exclude livestock from the mainstem Smith River and nearby Tolowa Dunes State Park.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Monica Scholey, Smith River Alliance

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: The project will restore off-channel salmonid habitat along the Smith River. The total project is less than five acres in size, and there will be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat.

Lead Agency Contact: Jake Shannon

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

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: JAKE SHANNON Jake Shannon **Date:** June 7, 2023 **Title:** Restoration Specialist

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