

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Northern Region
 619 Second Street
 Eureka, California 95501
 Contact: Adam Hutchins



Phone: 707-445-6493

Project Title: Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve Stream Crossings Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-MEN-29836-R1C)

Project Location (Mendocino): The project to be completed is located within the Big River watershed, approximately 10 miles northeast of the City of Ukiah, County of Mendocino, State of California. The project is located in Sections 22 and 23, Township 16 N, Range 14 W, Mt Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Bailey Ridge U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 149-190-05-00, 149-240-01-00, and 149-230-02; latitude 39.2319 N and longitude 123.3942 W at Crossing 1.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-MEN-29836-R1C, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Jackie Dixon, Representing California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), Sonoma – Mendocino Coast District.

The project is limited to seven (7) encroachments. Four (4) encroachments are for installation of pedestrian foot bridges spanning the primary stream channel within the floodplain of Montgomery Creek at Crossing-1, Crossing-2, Crossing-5, and Crossing-7. The encroachments at Crossing-1, Crossing-2, Crossing-5, and Crossing-7 will include excavation of the banks and floodplain; concrete footing and abutment form construction, pouring, and curing; and pedestrian bridge construction per the California Department of Parks and Recreation Trails Handbook Chapter 16 – Trail Bridges, and Chapter 26 – Drainage and Structure Maintenance. Two (2) encroachments will be to install boardwalks at Crossing-4 spanning an alluvial fan of an unnamed tributary, and at Crossing 6 along a secondary channel within the floodplain of Montgomery Creek. The encroachments at Crossing 4 and Crossing 6 will include excavation; concrete footing and abutment form construction, pouring, and curing; and boardwalk construction per the California Department of Parks and Recreation Trails Handbook Chapter 14 – Drainage Structures, and Chapter 26 – Drainage and Structure Maintenance. One (1) encroachment will be to install a rock ford pedestrian trail crossing in an unnamed tributary at Crossing-3. The encroachment at Crossing 3 will include excavation of the banks and channel to key in rock and installation of a rock ford crossing per the California Department of Parks and Recreation Trails Handbook Chapter 14 – Drainage Structures, and Chapter 26 – Drainage and Structure Maintenance. The encroachment at Crossing-5 will also include boardwalk approaches that will involve excavation within the floodplain; concrete footing and abutment form construction, pouring, and curing; and boardwalk construction per the California Department of Parks and Recreation Trails Handbook Chapter 14 – Drainage Structures, and Chapter 26 – Drainage and Structure Maintenance. The encroachment at Crossing-7 will also include moving non-stable large, downed wood that is not embedded in the banks and floodplain to the reach downstream using grip hoists and other hand tools. Granular filters will be used in lieu of geotextile or synthetic filter fabric within the floodplain and for rock ford crossings.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Jackie Dixon, Representing California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), Sonoma – Mendocino Coast District

Exempt Status:

- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301; and Type – Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304

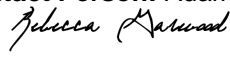
Reasons why project is exempt:

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Class 1 – The Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve Stream Crossings Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 1, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 because the project involves installation of pedestrian foot bridges, boardwalks, and ford crossings at existing stream crossing locations on an existing trail system. No mature, scenic trees will be affected by this project. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Class 4 –The Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve Stream Crossings Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304 because the project will require minor alteration to soil within a non-fish-bearing watercourse, and some removal of understory vegetation, including brush removal, but no tree removal. Measures will be taken to prevent creation of suspended sediment. No heavy machinery will be used, and all work will be done by hand crews.

CDFW Contact Person: Adam Hutchins, Environmental Scientist, adam.hutchins@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  *Date:* 9/14/2023

Rebecca Garwood, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____