

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:	FROM: City of Arroyo Grande (Public 300 E. Branch Street Agency) Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder 1055 Monterey Street, Suite D120 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	

Project Title:	Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Gauge (Site #739) Modifications Project
Project Applicant:	City of Arroyo Grande
a) Project Location:	Arroyo Grande Creek
Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>On December 12, 2023, the City Council for the City of Arroyo Grande (“City”) approved the Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Gauge (Site #739) Modifications Project (“Project”).</p> <p>The Project involves the reconstruction of the stream gauge located at Site #739 for the purpose of allowing better passage of steelhead trout common to the area. Specifically, the Project proposes to modify the existing broad-crested concrete weir, which spans the width of the main stem of the Arroyo Grande Creek. The Project will lower the weir to restore reliable access to 3.3 miles of critical steelhead habitat upstream of the barrier. The barrier modification will provide passage for both adult and juvenile steelhead trout at both low and high flows by notching the weir to lower the jump height and reduce velocity.</p>
Name of Public Agency approving project:	City of Arroyo Grande
Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Creek Lands Conservation
Exempt status: (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Project.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	CEQA Guidelines §§ 15301, 15302, 15304
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Sense Exemption	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation:	
Reason why project was exempt:		<p>This Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities). This exemption consists of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alterations to existing public or private structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This includes maintenance of artificial wildlife waterway devices to protect fish and wildlife resources. Here, the Project involves the operation, repair, and minor alteration to the existing stream gauge that involves little to no expansion of the existing use. Further, the stream gauge will continue to be used for its original purpose of improving the critical steelhead trout habitat.</p> <p>Alternatively, the Project is also exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction). This exemption consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The Project will involve the reconstruction of the stream gauge, located on the same site as the existing stream gauge, and will have the same purpose of improving the steelhead trout habitat with the same capacity as the existing structure.</p> <p>Lastly, the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). This exemption consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. This includes minor alterations in land and</p>

	<p>water to fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production. Here, the Project involves reconstruction of the stream gauge that will lead to the improvement of habitat for the steelhead trout.</p> <p>None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 have any applicability here.</p>
Lead Agency Contact Person:	Patrick Holub
Telephone:	(805) 473-5426

Signature: 
Patrick Holub
Associate Planner

Date: 12-13-2023

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: _____

(Clerk Stamp Here)