

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk
County of: Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

From: (Public Agency): Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
PO Box 95
Eureka CA 95502-0095

(Address)

Project Title: TRF Power Resiliency Generator Project

Project Applicant: Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Project Location - Specific:

440 Pipeline Road. Lat 40.907384 Lon -124.063411

Project Location - City: Arcata Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The generator will reduce or prevent loss of water service to approx. 90,000 residents of Humboldt County by providing power to the District's Turbidity Reduction Facility. If there is a power outage at the TRF, the treatment plant cannot function, and potable water cannot be supplied during a power outage.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Small Structure 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Footprint is 20' x 27'. Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment. The equipment is a backup generator which is located adjacent to existing facilities in an area that has been previously disturbed.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: John Friedenbach, General Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-443-5018

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: *John Friedenbach, General Manager* Date: 12/14/2023 Title: General Manager
Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GENERAL MANAGER

JOHN FRIEDENBACH

December 15, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I, Contessa Dickson, Board Secretary for Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, certify that the attached minutes from December 14, 2023, are true and accurate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Contessa Dickson".

Contessa Dickson

**Humboldt Bay Municipal Water
District 828 7th Street, Eureka**



**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 14, 2023**

9.

d. TRF Generator project:

After consultation with the District Engineer, it was determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption: Small Structure 15303. On motion by Director Fuller, seconded by Director Lindberg, the Board voted 5-0 to find that the project qualifies for the Categorical Exemption and directed staff to file the necessary CEQA paperwork for the TRF Power Resiliency Generator Project.

10. REPORTS (from STAFF)

10.1 Engineering – (Time set 11:00 am)

a. Samoa Peninsula Waterline Right-of-Way Maintenance Project EIR:

i. Notice of Preparation comment letters:

Ms. McNamee reported out on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) Comment letters. Stating The NOP was published on October 20, 2023, per SEQA section 15082. On November 9, 2023, a public scoping meeting was held during the HBMWD regular Board meeting. On November 14, 2023, the NOP was sent via mail to additional recipients including environmental advocacy groups to garner additional public comment, which was extended through December 4, 2023. At the November 9 Regular Board meeting the District received one oral comment from the Coastal Commission and received 5 written comments from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Friends of the Dunes (FOD), The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and a joint letter from Humboldt Waterkeeper, Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), and Northcoast Environmental Center. Mr. Friedenbach and Ms. McNamee have begun addressing comments with FOD, Humboldt Waterkeeper, and CDFW. All comments will be addressed and considered in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

ii. AB52 inquiry from Wiyot tribe:

The District has initiated AB52 consultations with the 3 regional appropriate tribes which were all confirmed with the sub-consultant of the appropriateness of reaching out to them. The Wiyot Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, and the Bear River Rancheria. The NAHC comment letter included recommendations for cultural resource assessment. The cultural resource sub-consultant on this project, Jamie Roscoe and Associates, has been conducting archeological investigations locally for many years and is well-versed in required best practices. The District received one request for formal consultation from the Wiyot Tribe. A meeting to discuss the project is scheduled between GHD, the District, and the Wiyot Tribe for Monday, December 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The Board asked some clarifying questions.

iii. Debrief meetings with NGOs and CDFW:

CDFW recommends including a full impact analysis of the Endangered Species Act listed species in the EIR which is planned as well as recommends completing biological surveys throughout the entirety of the project footprint prior to the