

Notice of Exemption

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

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch
Street Address:
1010 Riverside Pkwy
West Sacramento, CA 95605



For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Project Title: East Fork Mill Creek Floodplain Restoration (Project)

Project Location (Del Norte County): The Project is located at on East Fork Mill Creek, a tributary to Mill Creek, approximately six miles east-southeast of Crescent City, California, at latitude 41.725502 and longitude -124.075654. Access is 4.1 miles by road from Highway 101 along Hamilton Road and then 0.1 miles on Rock Creek Road at kilometer post 20.63.

Project Description: On April 24, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued a Notice to Proceed from the Nature Based Solutions - Wetlands/Meadows grant funding to the Smith River Alliance for the Project. The Project is designed to restore process and ecological function across stream and floodplain habitat in East Fork Mill Creek to benefit coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. The Project includes removing the existing road and bridge, reoccupation of an abandoned roadbed, installing a new bridge, creating and connecting off-channel habitat, and installing large wood features.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Smith River Alliance

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)

Reasons why Project is exempt: CDFW has determined that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) California Department of Parks and Recreation's November 7th, 2023 initial determination as lead agency that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive; and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the CDFW Director's December 20th, 2023 concurrence with that California Department of Parks and Recreation determination, which is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences.

CDFW Contact Person: Shadee Kohan, Environmental Scientist, (916) 594-6128, shadee.kohan@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Signature Matt Wells *Date:* 4/24/2024
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Matt Wells, Branch Chief

Date received for filing at OPR: _____