

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of Humboldt
825 5th St.; 5th floor
Eureka, CA 95501

From: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
5630 South Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503

Project Title: Wadulh Lagoon Tidal Wetland Enhancement

Project Applicant: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Project Location – Unincorporated Humboldt County approximately 1.25 miles west of the City of Arcata

Project Location – County: Humboldt County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project is designed to benefit native fish, wildlife, and plant species by restoring tidal process and ecosystem function to a diked agricultural pasture. The parcel where the Project will occur was purchased by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 2010 and was transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2023 and is part of the Lanphere Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Project includes 1) breaching and lowering approximately 2,000 linear feet of the Mad River Slough Levee, 2) excavating and grading 3.5 acres of low-lying areas of the pasture to elevations that will support eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), 3) excavating a tidal channel network, 4) placing approximately 27,000 cubic yards of native fill to raise low-lying areas to elevations that will support salt marsh, 5) constructing two cross levees, and 6) removal of invasive plant species. The completed project will restore and protect 62.1 acres of intertidal salt marsh, brackish marsh, freshwater emergent wetlands, and fringe wetlands.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: HCRCD and USFWS

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:
 Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56 for the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP). The CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency Determination and will post Concurrence at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>.


Lead Agency: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Lead Person: Jill Demers

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 832-5594

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:  Date: 1/19/24 Title: Executive Director

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

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