

Notice of Exemption

- 1 -

To:

Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Region 1 – Northern
 619 Second Street
 Eureka, CA 95501

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Title: Yurok Country Club Ponds Management Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-42396-R1)

Project Location: The project is located within the Trinity River watershed, at 333 Bigfoot Avenue, in the town of Willow Creek, County of Humboldt, State of California. The project is located in Section 28, T7N, R5E, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Willow Creek U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 522-381-034.

Project Description: The project involves the maintenance and removal of aquatic vegetation from five (5) golf course water-hazard features (i.e., onstream ponds). The ponds have become overgrown with aquatic vegetation, including invasive and exotic plants, and in some instances infested with invasive aquatic-vertebrates (fish, amphibians, and reptiles). The objectives of the project include enhancing drainage and streamflow by reducing obstructive vegetation and restoring the aquatic aesthetic suitable for a golf course, while maintaining or enhancing habitat benefits for native species.

Work to remove aquatic vegetation will include excavation with a long-reach excavator and disposal at an approved onsite location; in some cases, pond dewatering may be necessary. Vegetation-removal activities shall only occur between August 15 and October 31 for the conservation of pond-breeding amphibians and reptiles, and wetland-breeding birds. Restrictions on the magnitude of vegetation-removal shall include: no more than 75% of the existing vegetation should be removed from ponds 1, 3, and 4 in any given year; no more than 50% of the existing vegetation should be removed from ponds 2 and 5 in any given year. Prior to initiating vegetation-removal activities, a qualified biologist should survey the area to determine the presence of any invasive species and identify native species, including special status plant or animal species; invasive plant species should be prioritized for removal and managed aggressively, while native plant species, especially shrubs and trees should be retained and allowed to create a canopy. The qualified biologist should be present for pond-clearing activities to safely capture and translocate native vertebrate species (e.g., Western pond turtle, Northern red-legged frog, etc.) out of harm's way to suitable onsite habitat.

Table 1. Project Elements with Description

ID	Latitude/Longitude	Description
Pond-1	40.9557, -123.6252	Remove up to 75% of the existing aquatic vegetation in any given year.
Pond-2	40.9533, -123.6266	Remove up to 50% of the existing aquatic vegetation in any given year.
Pond-3	40.9525, -123.6276	Remove up to 75% of the existing aquatic vegetation in any given year.
Pond-4	40.9521, -123.6272	Remove up to 75% of the existing aquatic vegetation in any given year.
Pond-5	40.0173, -123.8455	Remove up to 50% of the existing aquatic vegetation in any given year.

Public Agency Approving Project: **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Michael Searcy

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 4; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304

Notice of Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt: The project consists of minor alterations to land, water, and/or vegetation. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitat pursuant to §15065. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed. 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.

CDFW Contact Person: Jonathan Hollis (Environmental Scientist), (707) 601-7237

DocuSigned by:
Signature: Michael van Hattem *Date:* 11/9/2023
009BB18539B6400...
Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: _____