

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Project Description: Stream crossing repairs & repairs within the riparian corridor necessary to support roadways – Riparian Exception Permit 231043.

Person or Agency Proposing Project: Santa Cruz County Property Owners affected by the 2022-2023 winter storms.

- A. The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
B. The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
C. **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
D. **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).

Specify type: 15269 (b). Emergency repairs to privately owned facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety and welfare.

15269 (c). Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.

E. Reasons why the project is exempt:

On January 4th, 2023, the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, declared a state of emergency due to damage from the winter storms throughout California. There was significant damage to Santa Cruz County roads and infrastructure on December 30th due to an Atmospheric River Winter Storm. Several more storms from December 29th-January 16th caused widespread flooding, partially due to significant debris in the waterways, mudslides and debris flows, road washouts and road collapses, and power outages throughout the County. In many cases access to private properties affected by the storms crossed streams and associated riparian corridors over culverts or bridges that were damaged or destroyed by the atmospheric river storms. These bridges and culverts must be reestablished to restore access to properties and safely clean and rebuild parcels.


Matt Johnston, Principal Planner

Date: 2/10/23