

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: _____

From: (Public Agency): _____

(Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

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: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency

Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

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: Steve Urbansk Date: _____ Title: _____

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: _____

Attachment A

Sonoma County 2024 Pavement Preservation Program

Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

Project Location

The project is located along 37 road segments throughout unincorporated Sonoma County. See *Table 1: Project Roadway Segments* and *Figure 1: Project Roads* at the end of this document for specific road locations and details.

Project Purpose, Description, and Beneficiaries

Project Purpose

Sonoma County Public Infrastructure's 2024 Pavement Preservation Program project ("Project") is critical to maintaining roads that serve Sonoma County residents, businesses, and tourism. Increased growth in Sonoma County coupled with pavement maintenance needs and limited funding highlights the need to efficiently deliver pavement projects. In addition, culvert replacement and shoulder maintenance preempt future water quality issues in the area by removing impediments to water flow resulting from failed or failing culverts and clearing excess sediment that can contribute to flooding, drainage, and erosion problems when washed out during winter rains.

Project Description

The Project includes pavement preservation, culvert replacement, shoulder maintenance, and associated improvements to bring roads within the Project area to current Sonoma County and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Project implementation would enhance vehicular and traffic operations, improve pedestrian safety, and improve water quality and stormwater management.

Pavement preservation is proposed at 34 roadway segments; see Table 1. Two types of preservation treatments would be applied: an asphalt concrete overlay (Overlay) or a Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) with an overlay. An Overlay includes application of an approximately 3-inch layer of asphalt concrete over the existing roadway surface. An FDR treatment involves grinding the existing roadway surface and base to a depth of one foot, mixing in cement, then grading and compacting the materials into the roadway base. The treatment is finished with an Overlay. This pavement preservation work would not require excavation into previously undisturbed soils, would occur within the existing pavement footprint, and within public right of way.

The Project would include replacement of up to 32 culverts within the Project roadway segments proposed for pavement preservation. Of the 34 roadway segments, culvert replacements are limited to 11 segments as shown in *Table 1*. Culvert replacement would require excavation into the roadway for a length and width necessary to remove the existing section of culvert underneath the road, and replacement of a new culvert. The area excavated beneath the road would be backfilled, compacted, and then refinished. The inlet and outlets of the replaced culverts would be stabilized by earth, vegetation, and or rock slope protection. Select culverts would be fitted with flared concrete end segments at their inlet and outlet.

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

Table 1: Project Roadway Segments

District	Road Name	Location	Length (miles)	Culvert Replacement	Pavement Treatment	Shoulder Maintenance	Guardrail Replacement
2	Lowell Ave	Stony Point Rd to Helman Ln	0.67	3	FDR/Overlay	Yes	Yes
4	B St	Second St to Somers St	0.11		Overlay		
4	C St	Second St to Somers St	0.09		Overlay		
4	Clover Crest Dr	City Limits (Cloverdale) to End-County Maintained	0.29		FDR/Overlay	Yes	
4	Coffey Ln	City Limits (Santa Rosa) to End-County Maintained	0.58		Overlay	Yes	
4	Corless Ln	Sutter Rd to End-County Maintained	0.04		FDR/Overlay		
4	D St	Fulton Rd to Somers St	0.06	1	Overlay	Yes	
4	Donna Dr	Begin-County Maintained to End-County Maintained	0.23		Overlay		
4	Kay Dr	Mark West Station Rd to Donna Dr	0.10		Overlay	Yes	
4	Leslie Rd	Porter Creek Rd to End-County Maintained	0.87	1	FDR/Overlay	Yes	
4	Loch Haven Dr	Porter Creek Rd to End-County Maintained	0.75		Overlay	Yes	
4	Mark West Station Rd	Begin-County Maintained to Fulton Rd	0.49		Overlay	Yes	
4	McCray Rd	Highway 128 to End-County Maintained	0.26		FDR/Overlay		Yes

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

District	Road Name	Location	Length (miles)	Culvert Replacement	Pavement Treatment	Shoulder Maintenance	Guardrail Replacement
4	Preston Dr	Geysers Rd to End-County Maintained	0.34	1	FDR/Overlay		
4	Second St	C St to River Rd	0.12		Overlay		
4	Skylane Blvd	Airport Blvd to Kitty Hawk Blvd	0.66		FDR/Overlay	Yes	
4	Somers St	Begin-County Matedined to River Rd	0.21	1	Overlay	Yes	
4	Starr Rd	Mark West Station Rd to PM 11.02	1.02		FDR/Overlay	Yes	
4	Sutter Rd	Preston Dr to End-County Maintained	0.15		FDR/Overlay		
4	Village Ave	Bailhache Ave to End-County Maintained	0.15		FDR/Overlay		
4	Zahner Way	Sutter Rd to End-County Maintained	0.04		FDR/Overlay		
5	Coleman Valley Rd	Joy Rd to Bohemian Hwy	1.79	2	FDR/Overlay	Yes	Yes
5	Eagle Nest Ln	River Rd to End-County Maintained	0.35		FDR/Overlay	Yes	Yes
5	La Porte Dr	Highway 1 to Hereford Dr	0.05		FDR/Overlay		
5	Marra Rd	Begin-County Maintained to Bittner Rd	0.73	2	FDR/Overlay	Yes	
5	Memory Ln	Canyon Two Rd to Canyon One Rd	0.34		FDR/Overlay	Yes	Yes
5	Mesa Grande Terr	Monte Vista Terr to Forest Way	0.61	1	FDR/Overlay	Yes	
5	Odd Fellows Park Rd	Highway 116 to River Rd	0.77	3	FDR/Overlay		

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

District	Road Name	Location	Length (miles)	Culvert Replacement	Pavement Treatment	Shoulder Maintenance	Guardrail Replacement
5	Orchard Ave	Begin-County Maintained to Neeley Rd	0.62		FDR/Overlay	Yes	
5	Mark West Springs Rd/River Rd Overpass	The Mark West Springs Rd/River Rd overpass at Highway 101.	0.35		Overlay		
5	River Ln	Begin-County Maintained to Neeley Rd	0.10		FDR/Overlay	Yes	
5	Rock Point Dr	Begin-County Maintained to Willig Dr	0.26	2	FDR/Overlay	Yes	
5	Stewarts Pt Skaggs Springs Rd	Highway 1 to Tin Barn Rd	4.50	15	FDR/Overlay	Yes	Yes
5	Willig Dr	Highway 1 to End-County Maintained	0.31		FDR/Overlay	Yes	
Total 2024 Project Totals			18.01	32			

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

Additional improvements along roadway segments would include shoulder maintenance and removing and replacing existing metal beam guardrail in select locations. Shoulder maintenance would remove accumulated sediment, debris, and overgrown vegetation to reestablish flow lines in the shoulders along the road segments. Maintenance activities would include mowing and removal of accumulated debris or sediment. Out of the 34 roadway segments, 21 would receive shoulder maintenance.

Construction activities would require standard construction equipment for asphalt and concrete demolition, roadway excavation, paving, striping, and shoulder maintenance. This would include use of an excavator, paver, compactor, grader, and backhoe. Construction staging and parking would be accommodated within the Project site on paved or stabilized, flat shoulder areas within public right of way. No construction staging would occur on private property. All Project work is anticipated to occur within the existing road and right of way or in limited previously disturbed areas adjacent to culverts as required for culvert replacement.

During construction, standard traffic control mechanisms would be used to maintain vehicular access on AC Overlay roadways. The FDR roadways may require detours between the hours of 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, as the existing roadway width may not allow for traffic flow during construction.

While Project would not require landscape improvements, tree trimming to a standard height of 15 feet would occur as necessary to provide access for construction equipment and guardrail installation. Up to nine (9) trees would be removed to facilitate the replacement of eight (8) culverts.

Reasons Why the Project is Exempt

The Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the following categorical exemptions from the State CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15301, Class 1:

This exemption permits the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Project would repair existing road facilities using pavement preservation techniques, replace existing culverts, maintain shoulders through mechanical sediment and vegetation removal, and replace existing guardrail in kind. No new roads, culverts, ditches, or guardrail would be created by the Project. The Project would not create any additional automobile lanes.

Section 15302, Class 2:

This exemption permits the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The Project would replace failed or failing culverts and guardrail in-kind to serve the same purpose of the replaced structures at the same capacity. The Project would not expand utility capacity. Culverts being upsized are not intended to accommodate new flows, rather, upsizing is proposed to meet existing hydrology and hydrologic conditions.

Categorical Exemption Exceptions

The Project does not meet any of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions, which are listed in CEQA Section 15300.2. The analysis below identifies the exceptions with a discussion that substantiates how the Project does not meet those exceptions.

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The Project qualifies for exemption classes 1 & 2 which are not qualified by consideration of project location.

b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The Project repairs, maintains, and replaces in-kind existing facilities located entirely within previously disturbed areas. Surrounding areas would not be impacted by the Project beyond the impacts from the existing facilities. No significant adverse impacts would occur as a result of the Project. Therefore, the Project would not contribute to or cause a cumulative impact based on successive projects of the same type in the same place over time.

c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The Project site has been previously disturbed by the construction and installation of the existing facilities to be repaired, maintained, or replaced in-kind. The Project would not result in any significant effects on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The Project site does not have any unusual circumstances that would negatively impact the environment.

d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

There are no Officially Designated State Scenic Highways within the Project site. Sonoma County includes two Officially Designated State Scenic Highways: the Sonoma Highway (Highway 12) and Highway 116. Odd Fellows Park Road abuts Highway 116, no Project road segments abut Highway 12. However, Project work along Odd Fellows Park Road does not include the addition of any new aboveground features, only pavement preservation and replacement of culverts.

The Sonoma County General Plan 2020 (General Plan) Open Space & Resource Conservation Element designates scenic landscape and corridors within unincorporated Sonoma County. Stewarts Point Skaggs Springs Road and Coleman Valley Road are designated as scenic corridors by the General Plan. However, Project work along these roads does not include the addition of any new vertical features, only pavement preservation replacement of culverts, and shoulder maintenance. Removal of existing above ground elements is limited to individual tree removal.

The Project does not coincide with an Officially Designated State Scenic Highway. Where the Project does coincide with General Plan designated scenic corridors, work would not have a visual impact on the scenic corridor. Thus, this exception to the exemption does not apply.

Notice of Exemption – Attachment A

e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

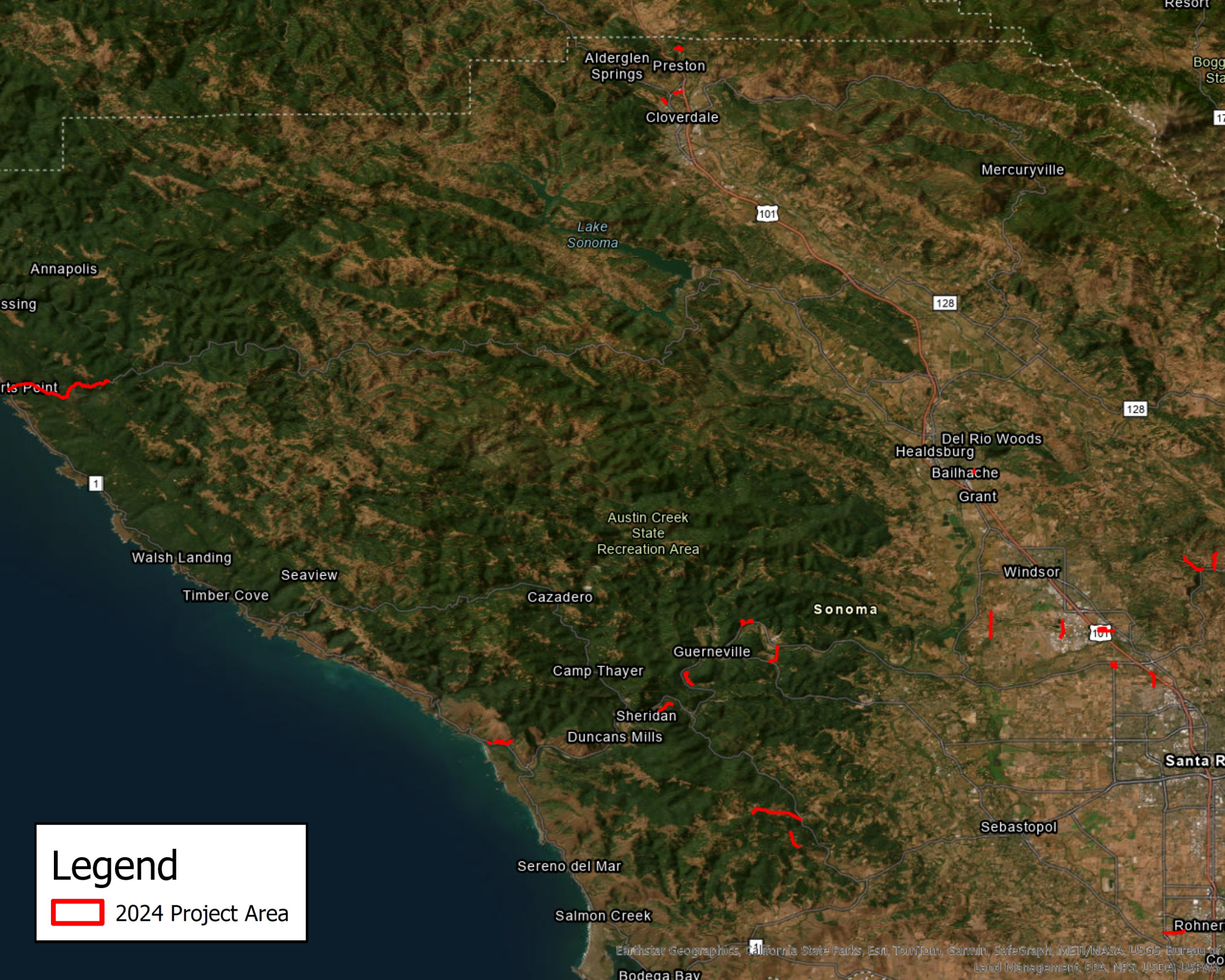
Project construction would not require excavation or grading on adjacent properties, only within the existing road and right of way. The nearest recorded hazardous waste site to the Project site according to a review of the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database is located adjacent to the project site near McCray Road. The site has been closed with no further action required since 2000. However, as this site is not located within the Project site, project construction would not require excavation or grading on adjacent properties, and the remainder of the Project road segments would not be located on or near a hazardous materials site this exception to the exemption does not apply.

f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

There are no historical buildings or structures located within the Project site. Project construction would occur entirely within the existing disturbed area and would not affect structures adjacent to Project roadways. The Project would not require any work within historic districts or on historic structures. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Conclusion

The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301; Class 1 and 15302; Class 2. The Project would modify existing facilities as allowed by the Class 1 categorical exemption. The Project would replace or reconstruct existing facilities as allowed by the Class 2 categorical exemption. The Project does not meet any of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2.



Legend

 2024 Project Area

Alderglen Springs
Preston

Cloverdale

Mercuryville

Lake Sonoma

101

128

128

Del Rio Woods
Healdsburg

Bailhache
Grant

Austin Creek
State
Recreation Area

Windsor

Sonoma

101

Guerneville

Camp Thayer

Sheridan
Duncans Mills

Santa R

Sebastopol

Sereno del Mar

Salmon Creek

Rohner