

FILING REQUESTED BY  
County of Mendocino  
Department of Transportation  
340 Lake Mendocino Drive  
Ukiah, CA 95482

AND WHEN FILED MAIL TO  
County of Mendocino  
Department of Transportation  
340 Lake Mendocino Drive  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**Project Title:** Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan for Mill Creek Ponds in Mendocino County  
**Project Location:** Mill Creek Ponds, Mendocino County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of this project is to implement the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan for Mill Creek Ponds in Mendocino County, approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on December 9, 2019, in order to prevent the infestation of invasive Quagga and Zebra Mussels in Mill Creek Ponds. Among the key tasks of this project are to continue early detection monitoring for invasive mussels, which consists of Artificial Substrate sampling, Plankton Tows sampling. This project assumes a two-year period, from September 2024 to September 2026. The Mill Creek Ponds discharge water into Mill Creek on a year-round basis. Mill Creek flows into the Russian River between the communities of Ukiah and Talmage. The beneficiaries of this project are the communities in the Russian River Watershed.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Mendocino Water Agency  
**Name of Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** County of Mendocino Department of Transportation

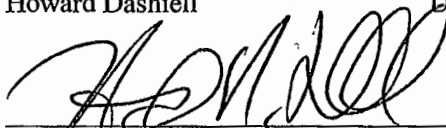
**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- |                                     |                       |                           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ministerial           | [\$15268]                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Declared Emergency    | [\$21080(b)(3); 15269(a)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Emergency Project     | [\$15269(c)]              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | §15306                    |

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

CEQA Guidelines section 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Early Detection Mussel Monitoring of the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan for Mill Creek Ponds in Mendocino County involves negligible disturbance to Mill Creek Ponds and its purpose is to determine whether the ponds have been infested by invasive mussels and their level of risk for infestation.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Howard Dashiell  
**Title:** Director of Transportation  
**(Area Code) Telephone No:** (707) 463-4363

  
Signature

Director of Transportation  
4/4/24  
Date

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