

**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:** Gossien Bear River Wet-Crossing Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-39925-R1)

**Project Location:** The project is located on the Bear River, approximately 9 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean, and 8 ½ miles south of the town of Ferndale, County of Humboldt, State of California. The project is located in Section 23, T1N, R2W, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Capetown U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 102-051-004; latitude 40.4509 N and longitude 124.2547 W.

**Project Description:** The project is limited to one encroachment for a wet-crossing (ford) of Bear River during low flows to access five residential/recreational properties (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 102-082-001-000, 102-141-001-000, 102-081-003-000, 102-131-002-000 and 102-052-004). The wet-crossing of Bear River has been the only means of accessing the properties since the loss of a portion of Bear River Road to landslide event prior to 1990. CDFW has permitted this activity since 1990. Wet-crossings are made infrequently by non-commercial vehicles (i.e. pickups and jeeps) during low flow months solely for intermittent, residential/recreational purposes; access is restricted by a gated road. This project proposes continuing to ford Bear River consistent with past use. Two crossing areas, located on a bend in the river, are situated between the two upland portions of the remainder of Bear River Road. The crossing approaches are located on rock and gravel dominated river bars. Project activities will include light grading of the road approaches on gravel bars with heavy equipment at the start of each year, and fording periodically late spring through early fall during the low flows. Low flows will dictate crossing feasibility.

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

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Carl Gossien

**Exempt Status:**

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

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Project will conduct light grading outside wetted channel, periodically cross channel with non-commercial vehicles at low flow conditions and outside salmonid spawning periods, and remove no vegetation. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 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:

Michael van Hattem

Signature:

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Date: 4/30/2024

Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_