

Notice Of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has completed an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the project described below.

Project Description: The Alexandre Dairy is proposing a project that will restore a riparian water right for APN 103-020-074 to irrigate approximately 355 acres of prime agricultural land which is grazed annually for regenerative organic milk production. The purpose of the project is maximize pasture irrigation during the late spring and summer during traditionally dry periods on the coast to allow the harvest of winter feeds (silage and grass hay) and grazing on productive, green pastures which produces high quality pasture based raw dairy by: (1) replacing a functionally obsolete water diversion with a new structure that meets current NMFS standards and regulations and (2) conveying the water by means of a new underground pipeline, minimizing evaporation and groundwater penetration which previously occurred through an open conveyance ditch.

The water supply will irrigate the Ranch's approximately 355 acres, which make up APN 103-020-074 from May 1st through September 31st annually. Start dates may vary depending on the farm's annual precipitation, which dictates pump start and stop periods on an annual basis, as this region generally experiences 76 inches of annual rainfall. The major project components include: (1) intake structure with fish friendly screen and self-cleaning system, (2) one to two centrifugal pumps, air compressor unit with tank, and the refurbishing of an electrical panel located in the riparian area upslope of the intake structure which has been in place since 1969, (3) a new underground mainline (app 4,500') from the intake structure connected to existing mainline located through a small portion of the riparian area on the levee and a significant portion of the farm's pasture land.

Project Location: The Project is located at 370 Sarina Road, Smith River, Del Norte County.

Finding: On the basis of the Initial Study, the Regional Water Board has determined that with the incorporation of the mitigation measures proposed in the Initial Study, the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures for cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Riparian Habitat will be required to reduce impacts to less than significant. Accordingly, the Regional Water Board intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, pursuant to Section 21080(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Public Comment Period: The Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) is available for public review and comment. The public review period for this project continues from **June 14, 2024**, and ending on **July 13, 2024**.

Your comments on the IS-MND and Draft Order are welcome. If you wish to comment on this IS-MND and/or the Draft Order, please send any written comments by US mail, email, or fax to Ryan Bey at:

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Document Availability: A copy of the IS-MND and related documents may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office during normal business hours or viewed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Questions regarding the Draft Order should be directed to Ryan Bey, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, by phone (707) 576-2679, or email at Ryan.Bey@waterboards.ca.gov

Ryan Bey, Senior Environmental Scientist

Date of Notice: June 14, 2024