

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard
Santa Rosa CA, 95403
Phone 707-576-2220
Fax 707-523-0135
Email: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Project Title: Town Creek Restoration and Education Project

Project Location - Specific: 39.791032° N, 123.255347° W

Project Location - City: Covelo

Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Project: The primary goals of the Project are to restore riparian forest conditions and improve wildlife habitat along a 600-foot reach of Town Creek. This will be achieved by planting native willow and cottonwood cuttings along the river-left and river-right streambanks, and by constructing willow baffles and coir lifts. The willow and cottonwood cuttings will be planted by either digging a series of holes or by excavating a narrow trench in the top of the bank and/or the upper floodplain. Approximately 20 willow baffles (16 on river-left and three on river-right) ranging from 20 to 90 feet in length will be constructed within the treatment reach. The willow baffles will extend from the streambank out into the active channel, with the objecting being to diffuse and deflect high velocity flows away from the eroding banks and encourage flows to re-occupy the preferred flow pathways in the center of the channel. Approximately three, 170-foot-long coir lifts will be constructed to re-stabilize an rapidly eroding streambank along the downstream extent of the treatment reach. Native stream materials from a small gravel bar adjacent to the bank will be placed along the streambank face to create a slope of approximately 2.5:1. The riparian plantings, willow baffles, and willow cuttings within the coir lifts will be irrigated from the time of their placement until rainfall occurs and will be irrigated for a second year, if necessary.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dane Downing, Round Valley County Water District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1): (5268):
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)):
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21 080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption; Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions; State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: The project primary goals are to restore riparian forest conditions and enhance wildlife and instream habitat along a 600-foot reach of Town Creek. The total project size does not exceed five acres.

Lead Agency Contact: Jake Shannon

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-576-2673

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: JAKE SHANNON **Date:** June 24, 2024 **Title:** Sr. Environmental Scientist

- Signed by Lead Agency
 - Signed by Applicant
- Date received for filing at OPR: _____