

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

County Clerk
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone Central Treatment Plant Creek Crossing Project

Project Location- Specific: 37875 Highway 1. East of the intersection of Highway 1 and Wild Iris Road, Sonoma County, California, 94597.

Project Location – City: Unincorporated

Project Location – County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sonoma County Water Agency owns and manages the Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone Central Treatment Plant, which provides wastewater treatment for a portion of The Sea Ranch community. The Central Treatment Plant collection system includes 1.9 miles of sewer pipelines and one lift station. The gravity sewer serves approximately 50 homes, and traverses open land from the end of White Fir Wood Road, an aerial pipeline crossing over an unnamed creek, and discharges to the headworks of the Central Treatment Plant. The aerial pipeline crossing is an 8-inch diameter pipe within a 14-inch diameter steel casing mounted on two pipe support piers (aerial crossing).

In October 2022, a severe weather event caused a tree to fall on the crossing, causing damage to the aerial pipeline casing. In addition, the two aerial crossings, constructed in the 1970s, have severe corrosion and are at risk of failure.

The project will replace the existing aerial pipeline crossing with a new aerial crossing and two crossing pipe support piers within 20 feet of the existing crossing. Construction activities include removal of: a) the corroded pipe support piers (cut at the ground and abandon in place); b) the existing aerial crossing; removal of an existing manhole (abandon in place), and c) concrete and wood abutment structures. The ends of the 8-inch pipeline will be plugged during construction and a temporary bypass pipeline will be installed. At the end of constructing the new aerial pipeline crossing, the plugs would be removed and the existing 8-inch pipeline will be connected to the new aerial crossing. Portions of the excavated area will be backfilled with Control Low Strength Material.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

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: 15301(b): Existing Facilities and 15302(c): Replacement or Reconstruction
- Statutory Exemptions. State Code number: 21080.21: Application of Division to Public Right-Of-Way Pipeline Projects Less Than One Mile in Length

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of replacing an existing facility that involves no expansion of use. The new aerial crossing would be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing structure and is less than one mile in length.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Connie Barton

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-547-1905



Signature

General Manager

Title

7.1.24

Date

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____



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Figure 1.
Project Site



0 1 2
Miles

