



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District
12301 North Hwy 1
Mendocino, CA 95460

PROJECT TITLE: Willow Creek Remote Site Incubator Project

LOCATION: Sonoma Coast State Park

COUNTY: Sonoma

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Project proposes to install two (2) Remote Site Incubators (RSI), adjacent to Willow Creek in Sonoma Coast State Park in January 2025, to augment existing efforts to maintain a viable population of Coho salmon in Willow Creek. Each RSI, fabricated from 55-gallon plastic drums and PVC piping, will be installed on pallets and will contain approximately 7,500 Coho Salmon eggs from the Warm Springs Hatchery. The incubators will use gravity flow to circulate creek water through the eggs. When the fish have absorbed their yolk sacs, they will be released directly into the creek as fry. A second incubator operation with the same number of eggs and process will occur in February 2025, for a total year's release of 30,000 fry. The project is planned for three (3) years, for a total incubation and release of approximately 90,000 Coho Salmon eggs/fry.

No disturbance to vegetation or soil resources will result from this project. This project augments existing efforts to maintain a viable population of Coho salmon in Willow Creek and this technique has proven successful in similar applications with an egg to fry survival rate of over 90%.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption *Class: 1, 3, and 7 Section: 15301, 15303, and 15307*

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

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William Maslach
District Superintendent
Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

DATE