

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
619 Second Street
Eureka, California 95501
Contact: John Herrera



Phone: 707-653-3710

Project Title: Keats Stream Crossings and Pond Decommissioning Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-MEN-43624-R1C)

Project Location (Mendocino): Eel River watershed, approximately 1.8 miles south of the town of Laytonville, County of Mendocino, State of California. The Project is located in Section 19, Township 21N, Range 14W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Laytonville U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 035-150-25; latitude 39.6636 N and longitude 123.4730 W at the second stream crossing (SC-2).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-MEN-43624-R1C, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Joshua Keats.

The Project is limited to three (3) encroachments. The first proposed encroachment (SC-2) is to decommission an existing stream crossing culvert and perform stream restoration and revegetation. The existing culvert will be removed, and the crossing will be recontoured with a rock lined 2-foot-wide open channel with 2:1 (Horizontal: Vertical) side slopes. Additional rock will be placed in an existing scour pool below the current culvert outlet. Work for this encroachment will include excavation, removal of the existing culvert, recontouring the banks and slopes to match the natural grade, backfilling and compaction of fill, rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion, and revegetating the disturbed riparian areas.

The second proposed encroachment (SC-3) is to upgrade an existing culvert. Work for this encroachment will include excavation, removal of the existing culvert, replacement with a new properly sized culvert, backfilling and compaction of fill, installation of energy dissipating rock up- and downstream of the crossing, and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

The final proposed encroachment (Pond-1) is to decommission an existing on-stream pond to render it incapable of impounding stream flow. The existing pond embankment will be breached, and a stream channel will be restored between the existing pond inlet and the area where the embankment will be breached. The embankment will be excavated to the bottom of the pond such that surface water cannot be impounded. Following the removal of the pond embankment, a 6-foot-wide rock lined open channel with 2:1 (H: V) side slopes will be constructed to convey runoff towards the existing Highway 101 36-inch diameter crossing. Grading will occur within the pond to ensure runoff is conveyed from the upstream crossing (SC-3) to the downstream Highway 101 crossing. All construction work shall follow engineered design plans provided with the Notification. A stream channel will be restored, and the new riparian area will be revegetated. The disturbed areas will be treated with erosion control measures until the new vegetation can be established. A Designated Biologist will be present during pond draining related activities to help identify and relocate native species and to help identify and remove non-native species.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Joshua Keats

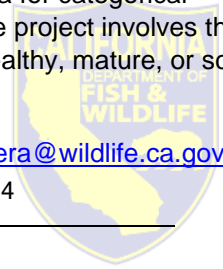
Exempt Status:

- Categorical Exemption. Type – Classes 1 & 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15301 and 15304

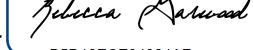
Reasons why project is exempt: Keats Stream Crossings and Pond Decommissioning Project meets the criteria

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for categorical exemption type Class 1, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 because the project involves installation and use of a stream crossing and removal of a stream crossing in existing locations. There project involves negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 4, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304 because the project involves the decommissioning of a dam for an on-stream pond which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees.



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Signature:  **Date:** 11/18/2024

Rebecca Garwood, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____