

Notice of Determination

TO: Office of Planning and Research **FROM:** Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Contact: Jonathan Hollis
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For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

LEAD AGENCY (if different from above):
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Contact: Joshua Dorris
Phone: (707) 268-3779

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to § 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2004052134

Project Title: Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-57742-R1C – Randall Gravel Extraction Project.

Project Location: The project is situated on the South Fork Eel River, tributary to the Eel River. The project is located in County of Humboldt, State of California; Section 25, Township 4 South, Range 3 East; Humboldt Base and Meridian; Garberville U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 222-091-015, 222-241-010, 223-061-08, and 223-061-09; latitude 40.0925 N and longitude 123.7966 W.

Project Description: The project includes three encroachments, one for gravel extraction from the channel of the South Fork Eel River for commercial purposes, and two for water diversion associated with gravel and aggregate activities. The maximum gravel extraction volume approved under the Conditional Use Permit, Surface Mining Permit, and Reclamation Plan issued by the County of Humboldt is 50,000 cubic yards of gravel annually from the Randall/Southern Humboldt Community Park bars. Over the last five years (2020 through 2024), annual extraction volumes averaged approximately 10,850 cubic-yards.

Aggregate extraction consists of removal of flood-washed alluvial material using heavy equipment (e.g., front-end loaders, excavators, bulldozers, and dump trucks) from the South Fork Eel River channel. Aggregate extraction methods and volumes shall be consistent with approved annual extraction work plans. Extraction occurs during the summer low-flow period when alluvial deposits are exposed. Habitat-enhancement or off-channel extractions may be included and involve connection of extraction areas to the wetted channel. Temporary crossings of the wetted channel may be needed to access gravel deposits. Timing of the installation and removal of these crossings is conducted to avoid periods of peak flows, salmonid migration and spawning, and requires coordination with CDFW scientific staff. Crossings are also designed to minimize the extent of channel disturbance and avoid sensitive aquatic habitat.

Two additional encroachments for water diversion occur on parcel 223-061-08 from two separate points of diversion adjacent to the low flow channel of The South Fork Eel River. Water is used for dust abatement on roads and stockpiles, in the production of concrete, and to clean gravel extracted from the gravel bar.

This is to advise that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), acting as **the lead agency** / **a responsible agency** approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations:

1. The project **will** / **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. (This determination is limited to effects within CDFW’s jurisdiction when CDFW acts as a responsible agency.)
2. **A program environmental impact report** / **A negative declaration** / **A timber harvesting plan** was prepared for this project pursuant to CEQA.

- 3. Mitigation measures **were** / **were not** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
- 4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was** / **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
- 5. Findings **were** / **were not** made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
- 6. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
 - Payment is submitted with this notice.
 - A copy of a receipt showing prior payment is on file with CDFW.
 - A copy of the CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination Form signed by the Department is attached to this notice.
- Lead Agency certification: CDFW, as Lead Agency, has made the final PEIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, available to the General Public at the CDFW office identified above.
- Responsible Agency statement: The final PEIR that was prepared by the Lead Agency for this project is available to the General Public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's CEQA Findings are available at the CDFW office identified above.

Signed: Michael van Hattem *Date:* 8/12/2025
Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
Date Received for filing at OPR: