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Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
619 2nd Street
Contact: John Herrera
Email: john.herrera@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: 707-445-6493

Lead Agency
Mendocino County Resource
Conservation District
115 E. Smith Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Contact: Erin Formaker
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Phone: 707-462-3664, ext. 108

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2012052019

Project Title: Mendocino Coast TMDL Implementation Project - Phase 3, South Fork Big River Phase 2 Component Stream Crossings and Bank Stabilization Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MEN-69567-R1C)

Project Location (Mendocino): The Project to be completed is located within the Big River watershed, approximately 6.9 miles east of the town of Comptche, County of Mendocino, State of California. The Project is located in Section 18, T 16N, R 14W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Bailey Ridge U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 149-060-05 and 149-050-03; latitude 39.2430 N and longitude 123.4540 W at Stream Crossing 5.1 (SC-5.1).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-MEN-69567-R1C), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, Erin Formaker, representing Mendocino Resource Conservation District.

The Project is limited to four encroachments. All encroachments described below will follow the treatments described in both the Conceptual Treatments document and Additional Pages document provided with the Notification materials. One proposed encroachment (SC-5.1) is to upgrade an existing unimproved low water crossing to a vented armored fill crossing. Work for this encroachment will include excavation to define a channel (4 feet wide by 2 feet deep by 60 feet long) through an existing skid bench to the top of a cutbank, excavation to transition the cutbank down to the road (10 feet wide by 1 foot deep by 20 feet long), excavation and installation of 15 cubic yards of 0.5-1.5 foot diameter rock armor for a keyway, placement of a new properly sized culvert, installation of five cubic yards of 8-12 inch diameter rock for the driving surface rock, installation of five cubic yards of 0.5-1.5 foot diameter rock armor to the cutbank transition with the road fill, backfilling and compaction of fill, and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

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One proposed encroachment (SC-9) is to upgrade an existing unimproved low water crossing to a vented armored fill crossing. Work for this encroachment will include excavation to define a 4 feet wide channel with 2:1 side slopes through the skid bench and inboard berm just upstream of the crossing, installation of 15 cubic yards of 0.5-1.5 foot diameter rock armor for a keyway, placement of a new properly sized culvert, installation of five cubic yards of 8-12 inch diameter rock for the driving surface rock, installation of five cubic yards of 0.5-1.5 foot diameter rock armor to the cutbank transition with the road fill, backfilling and compaction of fill, and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

One proposed encroachment (Site 3) is to perform bank stabilization at a stream bank erosion site consisting of two nearby segments (Part A and Part B) divided by two redwoods on the left bank. Work for Part A will include excavation of the left bank from the right end to the two redwoods (15 feet wide by 2 feet deep by 8 feet long), installation of five cubic yards of 1.0-2.0 foot diameter rock armor at a 1.5:1 angle to Part A on the left bank, backfilling and compaction of fil, and additional rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion. Work for Part B will include excavation of the left bank from the two redwoods to the left end (20 feet wide by 2 feet deep by 5 feet long), installation of five cubic yards of 1.0-2.0 foot diameter rock armor at a 1.5:1 angle to Part B on the left bank, backfilling and compaction of fil, and additional rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

The final proposed encroachment (Site 4) is to perform bank stabilization at a stream bank erosion site. Work will include excavation of the feature from the right to left end (25 feet wide by 1 foot deep by 12 feet long), installation of 15 cubic yards of 1.0-2.0 foot diameter rock armor to the left bank of the stream where it is excavated at a 1.5:1 angle, backfilling and compaction of fil, and additional rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on October 6, 2026, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the **Mitigated Negative Declaration** prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature: DocuSigned by: Rebecca Garwood B5D12ECE94324AF... *Date:* 10/6/2026

Rebecca Garwood, Environmental Program Manager

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Date Received for filing at LCI: