

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: County Clerk
County of Humboldt

From: (Public Agency): County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Planner: Portia Saucedo

Address:

Email: psaucedo1@co.humboldt.ca.us

Phone: 707-445-7541

Assessor Parcel Number:

215-162-021-000, 215-162-022-000, 215-162-030-000, 215-191-034-000, 215-191-038-000, 215-191-040-000, 215-191-041-000, 215-192-018-000, 215-212-004-000, 215-212-006-000, 215-212-007-000, 215-213-018-000, 215-231-011-000, 215-231-014-000, 215-232-001-000, 220-082-019-000, 220-181-003-000, 220-191-012-000, 220-191-035-000, 220-191-036-000

Record ID:

PLN-2023-18789

Project Title: Mattole Headwaters Enhancement and Planning Including Forest Thinning

Project Applicant: Sanctuary Forest, Inc. C/O Walker Wise, PO BOX 166, Whitethorn, CA 95589

Project Location - Specific: The project site is located in the Briceland area, within four tributaries (McKee Creek, Baker Creek, Lost River and Vanauken Creek) and three reaches of the Mattole headwaters mainstem.

Project Location - City: Briceland area

Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

A Special Permit (SP) for a fish habitat enhancement project that aims to improve pool habitat, channel structure, and complexity through planning and design needed for placement of instream structures in four tributaries (McKee Creek, Baker Creek, Lost River and Vanauken Creek) and three reaches of the Mattole headwaters mainstem. This project is intended to address a lack of instream wood resulting from historic land use impacts and logging. The structures will create scour pools where project sites are flatwater runs, provide cover and shade habitat and existing pools, and provide slow water refugia during high flows. Strategic grading at several locations will reconnect floodplains and reverse channel incision. Additionally, the project will include forest thinning in the riparian areas of the four tributaries. Thinning will occur within 300 feet on either side of project areas, where feasible, with the goal of reducing evapotranspiration and accelerating the transition of dense even age forests to more natural and diversified conditions. There will also be secondary benefits of improved fire resiliency in the riparian corridors. This Project also proposes forest thinning within 300 feet of the stream with the goals of reducing evapotranspiration of overstocked young forests, accelerating natural recruitment of large wood into the stream, restoring diversity of habitat types to the riparian area, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Forest thinning will occur within 300 feet of instream project areas (600 ft wide total) and within 700 feet in two specific areas.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Planning Director - Administrative Approval

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Sanctuary Forest, Walker Wise

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:
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: **21080.56**

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 21080.56 of the Public Resources Code (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects). Therefore, the project may be found to be exempt from environmental review the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Portia Saucedo Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 445-7541

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 08/01/2024 Title: Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
Revised 2011