

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Change
State Clearinghouse

FROM: City of Eureka, Lead Agency
Development Services - Planning
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PROJECT TITLE: Ryan Slough Water Main Repair Project

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka Public Works Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Ryan Slough Pump Station, approximately one mile east of the Eureka city limits (APNs 017-151-007 and 017-151-009); Humboldt County, CA.

PROJECT NUMBER: Environmental Document ED-24-4

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Ryan Slough Water Main Repair Project (Project) will repair a damaged section of the City of Eureka's public water main at the Ryan Slough pump station. The leak, discovered on January 7, 2025, was losing an estimated 10 million gallons of water per month before the pipe was taken offline. The Project will excavate and either repair with a strap-and-mortar or replace in-kind approximately 10 feet of water main, using standard trenching within previously disturbed utility areas. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2025 and will take approximately two to four weeks to complete, including post-construction restoration. Vegetation removal will be minimized, and the Project includes best management practices (BMPs) and full restoration of any temporarily impacted wetlands. The Project restores existing infrastructure to continue delivering reliable water service to City customers.

EXEMPTION FINDINGS: The City of Eureka as Lead Agency has determined that the above described activity is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency has further determined that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class I categorical exemption (§15301 – Existing Facilities), which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities,

mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. The project involves the repair and maintenance of an existing public utility facility, with no expansion of use. The repair will occur in an already developed and previously disturbed pump station area. Temporary impacts to wetlands and biological resources will be fully mitigated through established BMPs, restoration, and monitoring. No significant environmental effects are anticipated, and none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 apply.

Furthermore, although the Project qualifies for a Class I categorical exemption from CEQA, other regulatory approvals are required. These include a Coastal Development Permit Waiver from the California Coastal Commission (as the site is within the State Coastal Zone) and coverage under the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's General Order No. WQ 2004-0004-DWQ for temporary wetland impacts.

The material supporting the above finding is on file with the City of Eureka's Public Works Department or Development Services - Planning. Copies of the documents related to the evaluation of this project are available for review upon request at the City of Eureka, 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.



Caitlin Castellano
Development Services Deputy Director
City of Eureka



Date