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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
619 2nd Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-6493
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Stephenson Non-Native Vegetation Management Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-MEN-59998-R1C)

Project Location: The Project to be completed is located within the Upper South Fork Eel River watershed, approximately one mile southwest of the town of Leggett, County of Mendocino, State of California. The Project is located in Section 10, T23N, R17W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Leggett U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 012-110-12; latitude 39.85474 N and longitude 123.72326 W.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-MEN-59998-R1C, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to John Stephenson.

The Project is limited to one (1) encroachment to remove non-native vegetation from the South Fork Eel River for emergency fire access. Work will include removal of the non-native vegetation using hand tools and small operating equipment (bobcat T770, bobcat E50, and bobcat 5600). Non-native vegetation shall be removed from the project area and deposited where it cannot re-enter the stream. If the gradient of the streambed may be altered during project operations, Permittee shall return its contours as close as possible to pre-project conditions.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Permittee: John Stephenson
Contact: Jessica Ryan - CDFW Environmental Scientist
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-6493
jessica.ryan@wildlife.ca.gov

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Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304

Reasons why project is exempt: The Stephenson Non-Native Vegetation Mangement Project (Project) meets the criteria for the above categorical exemption because the Project consists of minor alterations to land through the removal of an invasive plants, and does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

CDFW Contact Person: Jessica Ryan, Environmental Scientist; 707-798-7390; jessica.ryan@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Angela Liebenberg 826CFD321C3845E... *Date:* 8/18/2025

Angela Liebenberg, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Date received for filing at LCI: