Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard
Santa Rosa CA, 95403
Phone 707-576-2220
Fax 707-523-0135
Email: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Project Title: Upper Horse Creek Valley Channel Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific: 41.8434936° N, 123.039741° W

Project Location: Community of Horse Creek **Project Location - County:** Siskiyou

Description of Project: This Project will restore over 2.4 acres of floodplain, instream, and riparian habitat along an approximately 2,100-foot-long reach of Horse Creek, tributary to the mid Klamath River. Heavy equipment will excavate approximately 31,000 cubic yards of elevated floodplain terrace materials to create approximately 2.4 acres of new floodplain habitat. The new floodplain habitat has been designed to connect with stream flows at the two-year flood event (307 cubic feet per second). The materials excavated from lowering the floodplain elevation will be hauled to a local quarry located approximately six miles from the project site and approximately 3,000 cubic yards of the excavated material will be screened and sorted to extract one- to three-inch spawning size gravel. Approximately 1,260 cubic yards spawning gravel will be hauled to the project site and will be placed outside of the wetted stream along its banks at two strategic gravel augmentation sites. High flows will disperse the gravel in Horse Creek, contributing to spawning material. Additionally, over 25 large wood habitat structures and roughness features will be installed in the stream channel and on the floodplain.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1): (5268):
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)):
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21 080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption; Section 15333 Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions; State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: This Project will create approximately 2.4 acres of new floodplain habitat along Horse Creek, an important tributary of the mid-Klamath River that remains a stronghold watershed for coho salmon recovery and does not exceed the size limits to be eligible for section 15333.

Lead Agency Contact: Jake Shannon **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 707-576-2673

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: JAKE SHANNON **Date:** September 16, 2025 **Title:** Senior Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:_____