State of California – Natural Resources Agency *GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor*
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE *CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*
Northern Region
619 Second Street
Eureka, California 95501
(707) 441-2075
www.wildlife.ca.gov

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: O'Donnell Water Diversion and Stream Crossings Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. 1600-2018-0590-R1)

Project Location (Mendocino County): The Project to be completed is located within the Eel River watershed, approximately 2.9 miles southwest of the town of Laytonville, County of Mendocino, State of California. The project is located in Section 22, T21N, R15W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Cahto Peak U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Mendocino County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 014-411-27 at the place of use (POU) and 014-250-50 at the point of diversion (POD); latitude 39.6666 N and longitude 123.5276 W at the POD.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. 1600-2018-0590-R1, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Mackenzie O'Donnell.

The project is limited to three encroachments (Table 1). One encroachment is for water diversion from the on-stream reservoir (Holland Lake) located on unnamed tributaries to Cahto Creek. Work for the water diversion may include modification as necessary to comply with the measures in this Agreement. Work for the water diversion will also include use and maintenance of the water diversion infrastructure including the existing onstream dam.

The two other proposed encroachments are to upgrade failing and undersized stream crossings located on the POU parcel. Work for these encroachments will include excavation, removal of the failing crossings, replacement with new properly sized crossings, backfilling and compaction of fill, and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Permittee: Mackenzie O'Donnell
Contact: John Herrera - CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
1600-2018-0590-R1
September 23, 2025

619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-6493
John.Herrera@wildlife.ca.gov

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Classes 1, 2, and 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15301, 15302, and 15304

Reasons why project is exempt: O'Donnell Water Diversion and Stream Crossings Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 1, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 because the project involves improvements and upgrades to stream crossings in existing locations. The project involves negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 2, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15302 because the project consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 4, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304 because the project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

CDFW Contact Person: John Herrera, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), John.Herrera@wildlife.ca.gov, 707-445-6493.

Signature: DocuSigned by: Angela Liebenberg 826CFD321C3845E... *Date:* 9/23/2025

Angela Liebenberg, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

Date received for filing at LCI: