NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

NAPA COUNTY PLANNING, BUILDING, & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
1195 THIRD STREET, SUITE 210, NAPA, CA 94559

To: ☐ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
PO Box 0334
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Napa County Clerk
900 Coombs St
Napa, CA 94559

PROJECT TITLE: ALVAREZ RESTORATION

PROJECT PERMITS: ENG25-00033

PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC: 1441 WHITEHALL LANE (APN: 027-440-015-000).

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY (NEAREST): ST. HELENA **PROJECT LOCATION - COUNTY:** NAPA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proposes to restore approximately 0.56 acres of land where trenching work occurred without benefit of a permit, and vegetation fuel management occurred. The fuel management work is exempt from the Conservation Regulation 18.108 per exemption 18.108.050.H which allows for the creation and/or maintenance of defensible space or the implementation of fire management strategies completed under the guidance of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). CalFire reviewed and approved fuel management work on the property which including the area where power infrastructure was trenched. An erosion control and restoration planting plan were prepared by Bartelt Engineering detailing specific erosion control measures that will be implemented, such as silt fence and straw wattles, placement of straw mulch, as well as reseeding with a native cover crop and placement of green bionet on all seed dispersal areas with slopes at or greater than 3:1. to help prevent soil loss. In addition, the plan provides specific details on the types of grasses to be utilized for both temporary and permanent erosion control and details on the required application level. The plan includes details pertaining to management of invasives. The main goal of the proposed restoration is to improve the habitat that was impacted by the trenching that occurred, and return the site to a more natural state but managed state, thereby improving habitat quality, water quality and reduce the potential for erosion.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: COUNTY OF NAPA, 1195 THIRD STREET, SUITE 201, NAPA CA

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: DANA MORRISON, SUPERVISING PLANNER **PHONE:** (707) 253-4437

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: MICHAEL ALVAREZ
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1530, ROSS, CA 94597 **EMAIL:** mua@100ww.net

EXEMPT STATUS (CHECK ONE):
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15268(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQAG) section number: ***Section 15333 Class 33-Small Habitat Restoration Projects.***
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The Project meets the CEQA criteria for exemption from environmental review under Class 33, Section 15333. This section of the guidelines describes Small Habitat Restoration Projects that do not exceed 5 acres in size and are constructed for the purpose of maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife. This Project will restore approximately 0.56 acres of native oak woodland impacted by fire and post-fire fuel management work. The project site is not listed on any hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.

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: _____ Title: Supervising Planner Date: 10/17/2025

☒ Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: N/A.

☐ Signed by Applicant

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A Commitment to Service

Planning, Building & Environmental Services

1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559
www.countyofnapa.org

Brian D. Bordona
Director

To:	Ginevra Agustini, Assistant Engineer Engineering Division	From:	Dana Morrison, Supervising Planner Conservation Division
Date:	October 16, 2025	Re:	Grading Permit #ENG25-00033 Alvarez Restoration

Planning staff from the Engineering and Conservation Division have reviewed the subject Grading Permit Application filed on July 22, 2025, for the proposed grading and earthmoving involved with the installation of erosion control measures and restoration efforts to address code violations cited by Napa County under citation order CE24-00233.

The project parcel is identified as APN 027-440-015 (1441 Whitehall Lane, St Helena) located in the Agricultural Watershed (AW) Zoning District within the Bale Slough sub-watershed of the Napa River Watershed. The property is approximately 39.7 acres and is improved with vineyards, a residence, an accessory dwelling unit, and various accessory structures.

Project Description:
The project proposes to restore approximately 0.56 acres of land where trenching work occurred without benefit of a permit, and vegetation fuel management occurred. The fuel management work is exempt from the Conservation Regulation 18.108 per exemption 18.108.050.H which allows for the creation and/or maintenance of defensible space or the implementation of fire management strategies completed under the guidance of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). CalFire reviewed and approved fuel management work for defensible space on the property which including the area where power infrastructure was trenched. An erosion control and restoration planting plan were prepared by Bartelt Engineering detailing specific erosion control measures that will be implemented, such as silt fence and straw wattles, placement of straw mulch, as well as reseeding with a native cover crop and placement of green bionet on all seed dispersal areas with slopes at or greater than 3:1. to help prevent soil loss. In addition, the plan provides specific details on the types of native grasses to be utilized for both temporary and permanent erosion control and details on the required application level. The plan includes continued maintenance of the area including removal of invasives and reapplication of native seed mix as needed to ensure proper reestablishment. The main goal of the proposed restoration is to improve the habitat that was impacted by the trenching that occurred and return the site to a more natural state but managed state, thereby improving habitat quality, water quality and reduce the potential for erosion.

CEQA Determination:
The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on this review it has been determined that this project belongs to the following classes of categorically exempt projects, which are recognized as having no potential to have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore is exempt from further environmental review (*State CEQA Guidelines, 2015*):

> Class 33 - Section 15333 Small Habitat Restoration – consists of projects that do not exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants or wildlife...examples of small restoration projects may include, but are not limited to: (1) revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.

The project would be exempt from the Conservation Regulations (Chapter 18.108) pursuant to Section 18.108.050(H), that exempts the creation and/or maintenance of defensible space for legally constructed structures or the implementation of fire management strategies completed under the guidance of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dana Morrison at (707) 253-4437 or by e-mail at dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org.