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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
(707) 428-2002
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

To:
Office of Planning and Research
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Porter Creek Bridge Repair on Sweetwater Springs Road (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-SON-50489-R3)

Project Location (Sonoma County): The project is located at Porter Creek, in an unincorporated area of the County of Sonoma, State of California; Latitude 38.541496°, Longitude -122.926258°; where Sweet Water Springs Road crosses over Porter Creek; Assessor's Parcel Number 110-200-021.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-SON-50489-R3, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department.

The project is limited to the repair of the existing scoured bridge footing, measuring approximately 63 square feet, within Porter Creek. The scoured footing perimeter will be fully surrounded with corrugated, galvanized steel sheets, expanding the footprint to approximately 119 square feet. The steel sheets will be embedded at minimum 2 feet into gravel and soil, or six inches into hard rock. The steel sheets will match the height of the existing footing, and the area inside the steel sheets will be backfilled underneath the footing with concrete backfill material. The purpose of the galvanized steel sheets is to provide scour protection below grade, act as forms and containment for the concrete backfill, and reestablish the bearing of the foundations of the bridge. Excavation will be performed with a vacuum truck and pneumatic hand tools. Concrete will be delivered through a tube running from a cement truck. All trucks would be staged above the creek bank on the roadway. Only the work crew and hand tools will be working below the top of bank.

If water is present in Porter Creek at the time of project construction, a water diversion system will be installed and the work area will be dewatered. A biologist will be on-site to monitor for wildlife and to identify if any coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch* pop. 4) or steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 8) juveniles are in the pools. At no time will coho salmon or steelhead be collected or relocated. The water diversion will be maintained for 30 days following the repair to allow concrete to properly cure.

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The project will result in approximately 56 square feet of permanent impact to open channel habitat and a temporary impact to approximately 400 square feet of open channel habitat due to dewatering. No trees or riparian vegetation will be removed as part of this project.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
David Walsh
Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department
Senior Environmental Specialist
(707) 565-2526
David.Walsh@sonoma-county.org
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Exempt Status:

☐ Statutory Exemption.

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301

Reasons why project is exempt: Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

CDFW Contact Person: James Hansen (Environmental Scientist), (707) 576-2869, James.Hansen@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Craig J Weightman 7988E6C4EDC24E2... *Date:* 9/24/2025

Craig J. Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____