

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

To: ☐ Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Napa County Clerk
900 Coombs St
Napa, CA 94559

PROJECT TITLE: California Stream Gage Improvement Program Grant funding:
Installation of 5 historical USGS stream gages in the Napa River Watershed

PERMIT(S): N/A

PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC: The project sites are located throughout the Napa River Watershed. The stream gage locations are mainly in the County Rights of Way and are adjacent to the properties with APNs listed below.

- Milliken Creek stream gage will tie into existing Flood Control OneRain telemetry. Station location in the public ROW and adjacent to APN 060-362-018-000.
- Redwood Creek stream gage will tie into the existing Flood Control OneRain telemetry. The OneRain station is located on APN 035-101-006-000 and instream instrumentation is located on County property (APN 041-100-001-000).
- Napa River at Calistoga stream gage will tie into the existing Flood Control OneRain telemetry at the site. The OneRain station is located on City of Calistoga property (APN 011-221-001-000).
- Dry Creek stream gage will require the installation of new stream gage and telemetry system. There is no existing OneRain infrastructure at this site. The telemetry system will be installed on or adjacent to the west side of the Solano Avenue bridge. The stream gage will be installed adjacent to APN 034-212-035-000.
- Conn Creek will require the installation of new stream gage and telemetry system. There is no existing OneRain infrastructure at this site. The telemetry system will be installed on or adjacent to the northwest side of the Skellenger Lane Bridge. The stream gage will be installed adjacent to APN 030-200-079-000.

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY (NEAREST): NAPA AND CALISTOGA

PROJECT LOCATION - COUNTY: NAPA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County is proposing to upgrade 3 and install 2 new stream gaging units to record streamflow data in the Napa River (at Calistoga) and 4 tributaries in the Napa River Watershed (Milliken Creek, Redwood Creek, Dry Creek and Conn Creek). Streamflow data will be made publicly available via the California Data Exchange Center as per the requirements of the California Department of Water Resources grant. This project will rely on tying into existing Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District OneRain sensor infrastructure at 3 of the 5 sites. Stream gage equipment will be paired with and installed within this existing OneRain telemetry infrastructure. Two locations (Conn Creek at Skellenger Lane, and Dry Creek at Solano Avenue) will require the installation of new gaging stations. The Project sites, consisting of existing streams and creeks, likely support local movement patterns of terrestrial wildlife species and provides food and cover resources for common avian and amphibian species, especially those areas near ephemeral drainages and streams. Temporary effects due to noise and increased human activity during Project activities should not interfere with these local movement patterns over time or affect the ability of these species to forage or reproduce. No removal of vegetation and no earth disturbance is proposed. Furthermore, work will occur outside the bird nesting season so there is no potential impact to nesting birds and raptors protected under the Migratory Bird Act. Additionally, various Best Management Practices are proposed to be implemented to reduce any impacts.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:

Natural Resources Division, Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services Department, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:

Natural Resources Division, Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services Department, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210

EXEMPT STATUS (CHECK ONE): (see Section 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines)

- ☐ Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];
☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15268(b)(c)];

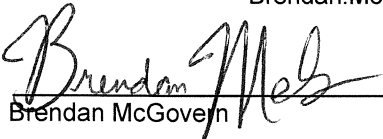
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: **Class (Type): 4 Section #: 15304 and/or Class (Type): 2 Section #: 15302 and/or Class (Type): 6 Section #: 15306**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- ☐ General Rule: [Sec.15061(b)(3)]

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The County finds that the proposed Project activities fall within Section 15304, Minor Alterations of Land, Class 4, Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction, Class 2 exemptions, and Class 6 Section 15306 Information Collection. The Project involves a limited number of minor, temporary, and localized alterations in the condition of the land and vegetation for the purposes of data collection, with no removal of any healthy, mature or scenic trees and no serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource. None of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines apply. As a result, the proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project sites are not listed on any hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Brendan McGovern, Principal Planner
Brendan.McGovern@countyofnapa.org

PHONE: (707) 259-8112

Signature: _____


Brendan McGovern

Date: _____

11 / 12 / 2025

Title: _____

Principal Planner

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Planning, Building & Environmental Services

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

Brian Bordona
Director

To:	Dana Morrison Supervising Planner, PBES	From:	Brendan McGovern Principal Planner
Date:	November 4, 2025	Re:	California Stream Gage Improvement Program Grant: Installation of 5 USGS stream gages in the Napa River Watershed

Pursuant to Section 303 of Napa County's Local Procedures for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Planning, Building & Environmental Services Department has prepared this environmental evaluation for the proposed California Stream Gage Improvement Program Grant: Installation of 5 United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gages in the Napa River Watershed.

Project Description

This project is located in Napa County within the Napa River Watershed and involves the installation of 5 stream gages at historical United States Geological Survey (USGS) sites that had previously operated in Napa County. Work proposed on Napa County lands will include maintenance and upgrades to 3 existing Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Flood Control) OneRain telemetry stations and the installation of 2 new stream gage telemetry stations. The project will consist of maintenance and upgrades to 3 existing Flood Control OneRain telemetry stations at Milliken Creek, Redwood Creek, and Napa River (at Berry Street in Calistoga). This work could include upgrading the conduit from the OneRain unit to the stream channel where existing infrastructure is present to accommodate installation of streamflow measurement sensors. Larger solar panels and new instrumentation will be installed within the existing OneRain enclosures to log and transmit streamflow data. At Conn Creek (at Skellenger Lane) and Dry Creek (at Solano Avenue), new stream gage radar units and telemetry systems will be installed. At each site, a self-enclosed telemetry unit (similar to the existing Flood Control OneRain units) will be installed to or adjacent to the existing bridges and streamflow radar boxes will be installed to the Skellenger Lane bridge at Conn Creek and the Solano Avenue bridge at Dry Creek. At these sites, the stream channel and banks will not be disturbed by the construction.

The project will not involve or require removal of trees or shrubs. This project will require minimal disturbance to the immediate area. Access to the site will occur from established roads when safely feasible. No unimproved or overland access is planned to occur on Napa County lands. All surfaces

will be restored to preconstruction conditions. Installation of stream gages at the sites is currently anticipated to begin December 2025 and end March 2026 with an approximate duration of 18 weeks.

Project Locations:

Project areas are various locations in Napa County. Surrounding land cover is residential development and sparse mixed evergreen woodland.

- Milliken Creek: The project on Napa County land occurs on Atlas Peak Road. The approximate project center is at 38°20'31.7"N 122°15'53.4"W.
- Dry Creek: The project on Napa County land occurs on Solano Avenue (near Darms Lane). The approximate project center is at 38°21'53.6"N 122°20'17.9"W
- Redwood Creek: The project on Napa County land occurs on Redwood Road (near Forest Drive). The approximate project center is at 38°18'54.2"N 122°20'01.3"W
- Conn Creek: The project on Napa County land occurs on Skellenger Lane (on Skellenger Lane Bridge at Conn Creek). The approximate project center is at 38°27'32.6"N 122°23'18.8"W
- Napa River (at Calistoga): The project on Napa County land occurs on Berry Street (near intersection with Washington Street. The approximate project center is at 38°34'46.2"N 122°34'55.3"W

CEQA Determination

Pursuant to Class 2 Section 15302 item (c) *Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity*, the proposed upgrades to the 4 existing OneRain sites would be considered exempt from CEQA. A key consideration in the appropriateness of using this Categorical Exemption is whether the project would be located on the same site, have substantially the same purpose and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. In terms of negligible expansion, the proposed project will take place within the existing roadway and subdivision on existing disturbed lands and does not include significant expansions beyond existing conditions. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Class 2 Categorical Exemption and has no reasonable possibility of having a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to Class 4 Section 15304 item (e) *Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including carnivals, sales of Christmas trees, etc.*, the proposed installation of a stream gage and telemetry system at Conn Creek and Skellenger Lane would be considered exempt from CEQA. A key consideration in the appropriateness of using this Categorical Exemption is whether the project requires any modifications to the stream bank or stream channel itself, which it does not.

This determination is solely based on information provided by the Napa County Department of Planning, Building & Environmental Services and Davids Engineering. Should the proposed project be modified or new evidence be presented that environmental impacts have not been fully disclosed, this determination would not be valid. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Brendan McGovern at (707) 259-8112, or by e-mail at brendan.mcgovern@countyofnapa.org.