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Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 1 – Northern
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Title: Smith River Ranch LLC Water Diversion Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-DEL-58535-R1C)

Project Location: The Project to be completed is located within the Smith River watershed, approximately 1.65 miles northwest of the town of Smith River, County of Del Norte, State of California. The Project is located in Section 21, T18N, R01W, Humboldt Base and Meridian; in the Smith River U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 102-010-031; latitude 41.9336 and longitude -124.1772 at the point of diversion (POD).

Project Description: The Project is limited to one encroachment. The encroachment is for water diversion from Ritmer Creek. Water is diverted for irrigation. Work for the water diversion will include use and maintenance of the water diversion infrastructure, which consists of a boulder weir and sliding gate culvert to divert water to an offstream reservoir. Instream work shall be limited to the relocation of stream gravels at the boulder weir to maintain water surface elevation at appropriate depth to avoid impingement of native fish species on the screen.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Chris Howard representing Alexandre Dairy

Exempt Status:

☐ Statutory Exemption.

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 4; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, Minor alteration in the condition of land and water.

Reasons why project is exempt: The project consists of minor grading of stream gravels onto a rock weir to increase water elevation to permit water diversion through a CDFW Fish Screen Criteria compliant diversion intake. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitat pursuant to §15065. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

CDFW Contact Person: Monty Larson (Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist), (707) 496-2292

Signature: DocuSigned by: Dave Manthorne 1B5E42F730224D2... *Date:* 10/10/2025

David Manthorne, Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor

Date received for filing at OPR: _____