

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz Community Development and Infrastructure has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

**Application Number:** 251469

**Assessor Parcel Number:** NO\_APN\_SPEC

**Project Location:** The project is located within open space easement boundaries in the County Right-of-Way on Capitola Road at Leona Creek in Santa Cruz, CA

**Project Description:** The proposed project will rehabilitate the lower 100 lineal feet of a 66-inch corrugated metal culvert pipe. The culvert is located below Capitola Road and on private property within drainage easements. The total length of the culvert is 216 feet. The culvert conveys Leona Creek which drains into Schwan Lagoon.

**Person or Agency Proposing Project:** Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development & Infrastructure; Division of Public Works attn. Erik San Miguel

**Contact Phone Number:** 831-454-2817

- A.  The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B.  The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C.  **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D.  **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).

Specify type:

- E.  **Categorical Exemptions**

Specify types: Class 1 –15301

**F. Reasons why the project is exempt:**

CEQA section 15301 Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, 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.

The culvert is an existing portion of the public drainage infrastructure in the area in need

maintenance and repair. There is no expansion of the culvert system.

Mitigation measures of the Riparian Exception have been included due to the Creek flow at the upstream dam that will be pumped to an adjacent sanitary sewer manhole among other significant mitigations measures are that heavy equipment shall not be used within the riparian areas. All stream diversion materials shall be transported, installed and removed by hand via existing pathways and slopes adjacent to the ends of the culvert or through existing manholes.

As work will occur within CDFW's jurisdiction, a Streambed Alteration Agreement with this agency will be required. The proposed project is located with RWQCB jurisdiction. As work will occur within Waters of the State and federal waters, a 401 certification from RWQCB will be required. The proposed project involves temporary fill for clean gravel bag and visqueen coffer dams during culvert dewatering below the OHWM of the creek, areas that are within USACE's jurisdiction. A permit from USACE may be required as repair work will occur within the confines of the OHWM. However, adherence with these permit conditions is not expected to impact special status species or habitat.

DocuSigned by:  
*Jessica deGrassi*

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Jessica deGrassi, Project Planner

Date: 3/3/2026