

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Lake

255, North Forbes Street

Lakeport, CA 95403

From: (Public Agency): City of Clearlake

14050 Olympic Drive

Clearlake, CA 95422

(Address)

Project Title: Clearlake Algae Harvesting Demonstration Project

Project Applicant: Blue Cycle Technologies

Project Location - Specific:

Clearlake, California - Redbud Park

Project Location - City: Clearlake, CA

Project Location - County: Lake County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See Exhibit A

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Clearlake, CA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: BlueCycle Technologies

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ **Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:** Section 15061 (B3) and 15306 (Information collection)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project qualifies for the above Categorical Exemptions as the project will be implemented on a temporary basis (as a pilot program for data collection and research which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to the environmental and/or resources.) for the collection of lake water to separate the algal and cyanobacterial biomass from the water, and return the clarified water to the lake. The project will not require ground disturbance and/or disturb the lake bed at any time. All water collected will be through water pumps/lines that will be installed just below the water surface with filters/screens to prevent impacts on native species/fish.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mark Roberts - Senior Planner Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 994-8201

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: Mark Roberts Date: 6/25/2025 Title: Senior Planner

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Exhibit A - Project Description

The City of Clearlake has received grant funding through the California Natural Resources Agency to conduct a temporary algae harvesting demonstration project. The project is intended to evaluate the effectiveness of Hydronucleation Flotation Technology (the project will not require ground disturbance and/or impact the lakebed at any time) in removing algal, cyanobacterial biomass, nutrients, and cyanotoxins from lake water to generate data that may support future harmful algal bloom management strategies for Clear Lake and other California water bodies.

The system will withdraw water from Clear Lake, separate the algal and cyanobacterial biomass from the water, and return the clarified water to the lake. The return water will be discharged to a semi-enclosed treatment zone within the lake created using turbidity curtains to support evaluation of treatment performance under controlled conditions. Monitoring will be conducted during operations to document system process controls, influent and effluent quality, and lake water quality.

The algae harvesting operating period is expected to last approximately three weeks, processing up to 21 million gallons of water and generating approximately 22,000 gallons of algae slurry