



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Northern Region
 619 2nd Street
 Eureka, CA 95501
 707-441-2075
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director



To:
 Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Watson Water Diversion Removal and Stream Crossing Project
 (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-MEN-65336-R1C)

Project Location (Mendocino): The Project to be completed is located within the Eel River watershed, approximately 8.8 miles north of the town of Laytonville, County of Mendocino, State of California. The Project is located in Section 26, T 23N, R 15W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Iron Peak and Tan Oak Park U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 056-310-05-00 and 056-340-01-05; latitude 39.81540 N and longitude 123.49590 W at the point of diversion (POD).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS- MEN-65336-R1C, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to James Watson.

The Project is limited to two encroachments. One encroachment is to upgrade an existing 12-inch diameter stream crossing culvert to a 24-inch diameter culvert and restore approximately 25 feet of stream channel directly above the culvert. Work for this encroachment will include excavation, removal of the existing culvert, replacement with a new properly sized culvert, backfilling and compaction of fill, and rock armoring as necessary to minimize erosion. Restoration of the 25-foot length of stream channel immediately upstream of the culvert will consist of removal of approximately 2.31 cubic yards of aggraded sediment and shaping of a new streambed 6-inches wide and 1-foot deep with 2:1 slopes.

The second encroachment is to decommission water diversion infrastructure. Work will consist of removing a 55-gallon barrel and approximately 0.65-1.3 cubic yards of fill from a stream, with a disturbance footprint of approximately 12 square feet.

Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Permittee: James Watson

Contact: Penny Lancaster – CDFW Environmental Scientist
 619 Second Street

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Eureka, CA 95501

707-445-6493

Penny.Lancaster@wildlife.ca.gov

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Classes 2 and 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections (15302 and 15304)

Reasons why project is exempt: Watson Water Diversion Removal and Stream Crossing Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 2, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15302 because the project involves replacement and reconstruction of an existing stream crossing culvert and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The Project meets the criteria for categorical exemption type Class 4, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304 because the project consists of minor private alterations in the condition of land and water which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

CDFW Contact Person: Penny Lancaster, Environmental Scientist, 707-672-3530,
Penny.Lancaster@wildlife.ca.gov.

DocuSigned by:
Rebecca Garwood
Signature: _____ **Date:** 6/22/2026
Rebecca Garwood, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: