

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

From: SF Bay Regional Water Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Project Title: Abuelitos Foundation Conn Creek Land Lab Pilot Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific: (38.504724, -122.386221)

Project Location - City: Unincorporated (Saint Helena)

Project Location - County: Napa County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project will implement biotechnical and rock bank stabilization measures using a combination of native rock, woody debris, brush, and strategic vegetation placement in designs that include brush and gully packing, backfilled one log and rock dams, live plantings, and woody wattle measures at each action area to reduce bank erosion, sedimentation, and destabilization, and to increase native vegetation communities with functions and services greater than existing conditions. Measures will be installed primarily by hand, with mini excavators, tracked utility vehicles, and water trucks. Most materials will be sourced from uplands on-site or nearby properties (e.g. vine wood, oak and conifer limbs and brush, willow cuttings, rock, acorns, etc.). No excavators or tracked vehicles will be used in the creek beds. Revegetation efforts will consist of native species seeding, container planting, and selective competing species placement and invasive removal actions to encourage native species recruitment at the tops of banks and into the riparian transition zone between waters and the riparian corridor to increase the area's mix of herbaceous ground cover, understory shrubs, and trees native to the region and adapted to the area. The Project will also implement a grazing and exclusion plan to protect the riparian understory and new vegetation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project as Lead Agency: SF Bay Regional Water Board

Name of Legally Responsible Persons or Agency Carrying Out Project: Element 28

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080b(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080b(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080b(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption (State Type and Section Number): 15333 – Small Habitat Restoration Projects, Class 33.
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (State Code Number): _____

Reasons why the Project is exempt: The Project covers no more than 5 acres and will primarily be conducted by hand. Its purpose is to revegetate creek banks, restore ecological functions, remove invasive species, and enhance native aquatic habitats.

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July 31, 2026

