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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: Abels Bridge and Pond Outlet Improvement Project (Project) (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-MEN-67271-R1C)

Project Location (Mendocino): The Project to be completed is located within the Russian River watershed, approximately 2 miles south of the town of Potter Valley, County of Mendocino, State of California. The Project is located in Section 28, T17N, R11W, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; in the Potter Valley U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Number 175-230-20-00; latitude 39.29952N and longitude 123.08883W at the stream crossing.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-MEN-67271-R1C, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Dustin Abels.

The Project is limited to two (2) encroachments (Table 1). One encroachment is for upgrading a stream crossing on an unnamed tributary to East Fork Russian River. Two 48-inch diameter culverts will be replaced with a bridge, consisting of a 30-foot long by 12-foot wide bridge deck supported by eight (8) 2-foot tall by 2-foot wide by 6-foot long pre-cast concrete bridge abutments, 4 pre-cast abutments supporting each end of the bridge, and six (6) cubic-yards of 6-inch plus rock riprap in the stream channel to protect the abutments. Prior to initiating work, coordination with Potter Valley Irrigation District may be necessary to ensure compliance with Measure 2.14 of the Agreement.

The other proposed encroachment is for improvements to the outlet of a reservoir filled by water delivery from the Potter Valley Irrigation District and is currently hydrologically connected to an Unnamed Tributary to the East Fork Russian River. Work for this encroachment will include the removal of 60 feet of culvert from the outlet, installation of a 45-degree elbow and 10-foot section of culvert and addition of a 6 foot by 9 foot energy dissipator consisting of 6-inch rock, followed by a 115-foot long vegetated swale with rock check dams at 20-foot intervals, ending in a 6 foot by 9 foot energy dissipator consisting of 6-inch rock.

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
EPIMS-MEN-67271-R1C

Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Permittee: Dustin Abels
Contact: Penny Lancaster – CDFW Environmental Scientist
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-6493
Penny.Lancaster@wildlife.ca.gov

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Classes 1, 2 and 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, 15302 and 15304

Reasons why project is exempt: Abels Bridge and Pond Outlet Improvement Project (Project) meets the criteria for categorical exemption Class 1, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 because the project involves minor alteration of an existing stream crossing. The project involves negligible or no expansion of the existing use.

Abels Bridge and Pond Outlet Improvement Project (Project) meets the criteria for categorical exemption Class 2, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15302 because the project involves replacement and reconstruction of an existing stream crossing that will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structures replaced.

Abels Bridge and Pond Outlet Improvement Project (Project) meets the criteria for categorical exemption Class 4, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304 because the pond outlet improvements consist of minor alterations of land, not involving removal of healthy, mature or scenic trees.

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

Signature: DocuSigned by: Rebecca Garwood B5D12ECE94324AF... *Date:* 8/28/2026

Rebecca Garwood, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: