



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: De-Silting of Creek Bed Diversion Site and Ongoing Diversion (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-NAP-54985-R3)

Project Location (Napa County): The Project is located at an unnamed tributary to the Napa River, near the City of Napa, at 4059 Old Sonoma Road, 94574; at approximately 38.28295°N, -122.32707°W, in the County of Napa, State of California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-NAP-54985-R3, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Robert Sinskey.

The Project is limited to 1) removing accumulated silt ranging in depth from one to six feet over an area of approximately 13,000 square feet (0.298 acres), on the unnamed tributary when water is not present, no more than once per year for the term of the Agreement; and 2) the ongoing operation of water diversion structures in compliance with water rights issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board (Application 15807 and 301512), in addition to conditions provided by CDFW in this Agreement.

Water is collected at an onstream reservoir on the unnamed tributary to the Napa River (henceforth referred to as Reservoir 1) using a concrete weir structure with a gated outlet near the bottom. Water is transferred to a remote reservoir on the same property (Reservoir 2) with an electric pump that is seasonally lowered into Reservoir 1. During the diversion, excess sediment has accumulated in Reservoir 1, blocking the gated outlet running under the weir. The de-silting is needed for diversion activities to

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continue, to restore Reservoir 1 to permitted capacity, to maintain flows to downstream ecosystems, and to avoid flooding hazards and damage to the surrounding property.

One back-hoe tractor and crews using shovels will remove silt and load it onto a trailer, then haul it to an on-property pasture and seeded with an erosion control cover crop for later grazing by livestock. The backhoe and crews will utilize a single existing access road for the point of entry and exit to Reservoir 1. The riparian area surrounding Reservoir 1 is composed of mixed native and non-native vegetation and will not be disturbed. No trees will be removed as a result of the Project. The Project will result in approximately 13,000 square feet (0.298 acres) of temporary impacts and 450 linear feet of temporary impacts resulting from the removal of a maximum of approximately 1,685 cubic yards of dry silt per year. Material to be removed will be limited to dry silt, not including woody or rocky streambed features or stream cobble. The Project will remove the minimum amount of dry silt needed to restore functionality to the water diversion structures. The Project will not damage or remove riparian vegetation occurring along the bank of the stream.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Robert Sinskey
 Robert Sinskey Vineyards and Wilding Farm
 Owner
 707-944-9090
Pinot@robertsinskey.com
 4059 Old Sonoma Road
 Napa, CA 94559

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Statutory Exemption.
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301

Reasons why project is exempt: Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, 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.

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CDFW Contact Person: James Hansen (Environmental Scientist), (707) 576-2869,
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DocuSigned by:
Craig J Weightman
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Signature: _____ Date: 9/1/2026

Craig J. Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: