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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
wildlife.ca.gov

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Sonoma County 2026 Pavement Preservation Program (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-SON-65373-R3)

Project Location (Sonoma): The Project is located at 55 work locations along 12 road segments at several streams including Mill Creek, Pool Creek, and Unnamed Tributaries to the Russian River, Dry Creek, Mill Creek, Mark West Creek, Atascadero Creek, Americano Creek, and Carriger Creek, throughout unincorporated County of Sonoma, State of California

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-SON-65373-R3, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the County of Sonoma.

The Project is limited to maintenance, including mowing of vegetation, of approximately 14,700 linear feet of existing roadside ditches, and replacement of eight existing corrugated metal pipe culverts and one reinforced concrete pipe culvert throughout unincorporated Sonoma County as part of a larger pavement rehabilitation Project. Four culverts will be upsized. No work in wetted streams will occur. Removal of twelve trees is necessary for five of the culvert replacements.

Replacement of one of the nine existing culverts will result in approximately 87 square feet and 14 linear feet of permanent impacts to stream habitat. Permanent impacts will result from the installation of concrete flared end sections or rock slope protection at the culvert outlets. Culvert replacement will require the minimum amount of excavation into the roadway for the length and width necessary to remove the existing culvert underneath the road and install the new culvert pipe. The excavation area will be backfilled, compacted, and the roadway surface will be refinished.

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Temporary impacts to riparian habitat will result from the replacement of nine culverts and maintenance of approximately 14,700 linear feet of existing ditches. In-kind culvert replacement will require the minimum amount of excavation into the roadway for a length and width necessary to remove the existing culvert underneath the road and install the new culvert pipe. Existing inlet and outlet protection will be replaced at several locations, without any expansion in area. Ditch maintenance activities will remove accumulated sediment, debris, and overgrown vegetation to reestablish flow lines to baseline conditions. Temporary impacts will total approximately 14,716 linear feet and 0.95 acre of riparian habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Olguin Caban
Assistant Engineer
County of Sonoma Public Infrastructure
(707) 565-2857
Olguin.Caban@sonoma-county.org
400 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Exempt Status: On May 27, 2026, the County of Sonoma Public Infrastructure, the Lead Agency, determined that the project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15301 and 15302. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1, subdivision (a), the Lead Agency is responsible for determining whether the Project is exempt from CEQA and that determination shall be final and conclusive on all persons, including Responsible Agencies. As a result, CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, is bound by the Lead Agency's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA.

CDFW Contact Person: Nick Wagner (Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)), (707) 428-2075, Nicholas.Wagner@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Jason Farinha FEEF0FAD3CD448D... *Date:* 8/5/2026

Craig Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: