



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
North Coast Redwoods District
PO Box 2006
Eureka, CA 95502-2006

PROJECT TITLE: Durphy Creek Fish Passage and Design Project

LOCATION: Richardson Grove State Park **COUNTY:** Humboldt

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The project proposes to replace two (2) undersized culvert crossings with two (2) bridges to restore natural channel processes along Durphy Creek within Richardson Grove State Park to reconnect over 1.8 miles of high-value spawning and cold-water rearing habitat for Coho and Chinook salmon. The project will also benefit Northern California Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey as well as multiple species of terrestrial wildlife and native vegetation. Work for the two (2) replacements will include the following:

- Capture and relocate aquatic species from the project areas prior to dewatering and in-stream work;
- Dewater and/or divert the stream along a portion of the channel to facilitate construction and to exclude and protect aquatic species during construction;
- Temporarily remove of any existing fencing, signage and/or guardrails and store for reuse;
- Remove and salvage existing native vegetation for replanting during site restoration and install protective tree fencing where necessary;
- Remove existing asphalt and concrete pavement, the corrugated metal culverts and haul off-site and dispose of at appropriate facility;
- Excavate and stage streambed materials for potential reuse;
- Construct temporary access routes to support construction activities and channel grading;
- Replace existing culverts with prefabricated steel girder bridges, approximately 45 feet long by 30 feet wide, supported by soldier pile wall abutments;
- Backfill bridge abutments and construct roadway approaches using engineered fill to raise the approaches to approximately 3 feet above existing grade;
- Construct wingwalls to retain fills near sensitive creek areas and reduce scour potential at the bridge sites;
- Install cast-in-place, asphalt-surfaced, concrete approach slabs at both ends of the bridge, as well as approx. 4-foot-wide by 9-foot-long concrete pedestrian sidewalks along the roadway approaches;
- Install, reconnect, and tie in any utilities disconnected for the project and remove any temporary utility bypass systems installed outside the direct work area to maintain service during construction;
- Use stockpiled native materials to grade the channel beds and banks within each bridge footprint and project area to reestablish continuous, natural channel profiles and restore sediment and streamflow continuity where suitable; and
- Use native seed, salvaged on-site plants, and as needed, container plants or cuttings to revegetate disturbed areas at project's end.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: North Coast Redwoods District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption *Class:* 1, 3, 4 & 33 *Section:* 15301, 15303, 15304 & 15333

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; and consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife, and is included as "Resource management projects" and "culvert replacement conducted in accordance with DFG and NOAA Fisheries guidelines for the purpose of improving habitat and reducing sedimentation" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Rosalind Litzky
North Coast Redwoods District

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Signed by:

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Victor Bjelajac
District Superintendent
North Coast Redwoods District

Certificate Of Completion

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Victor Bjelajac
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 District Superintendent II
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