

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
820 Bay ave suite 136
Capitola, CA 95010

County Clerk
County of: Santa Cruz

RECEIVED
CLERK OF THE BOARD (Address)
JAN 03 2025
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SANTA CRUZ

44-01032025-001
001-25

Project Title: Aptos Creek Streamwood Enhancement

Project Applicant: RCD Santa Cruz County

Project Location - Specific:

The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park; APN 10501125; 37.011337N,121.906531W

Project Location - City: Aptos Project Location - County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will improve instream habitat by installing large wood features at 10 sites across Aptos Creek through unanchored, direct felling methods (accelerated recruitment). This will enhance approximately 1.5 miles of habitat for coho salmon and steelhead by creating high- and low-flow refugia, slowing flows, sorting and storing sediment, providing cover in pools, and creating new pools. The wood features will be constructed using approximately 41 on-site trees that have been selected for direct felling based on field surveys. These large wood features will create high velocity refugia, provide cover in pools, create new pools, and increase overall habitat complexity while also reducing incision and sediment deposition by slowing flows. This project will have a net positive impact and will continue effort to implement wood loading projects in streams identified as wood deficient and support the recovery of threatened CCC steelhead.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: RCD Santa Cruz County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: RCD Santa Cruz County

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15333 Class 33
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is principally being carried out to restore natural ecological processes in Aptos Creek via increased loading of large woody debris into a system that currently contains very little large woody debris due to historic land-use and stream management practices. None of the project activities will have a significant effect on sensitive species, resources and/or areas. None of the project activities will have a negative effect on protected species habitat and, in fact, the project activities are intended to improve instream habitat conditions for steelhead, coho salmon, and foothill yellow-legged frog. As such, the project has been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and therefore is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA as per Class 33

Lead Agency

Contact Person: James McKenna, Board President RCD Santa Cruz Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-464-2950

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: James J. McKenna Date: Dec 24, 2024 Title: BOARD PRESIDENT

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:
THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 1/3/2025
AND ENDING 2/8/2025
Revised 2011