



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
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Sonoma County proposes to carry out the following project. Pursuant to Section 23A of the Sonoma County Code, it has been determined that this project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Project Title: Lakeville Creek Restoration Project	To:	
Public Agency: Sonoma County	County Clerk- Recorder Office	Office of Planning and
Project Applicant: Sonoma Land Trust	County of Sonoma	Research
Applicant Address: 822 5th St, Santa Rosa, CA 95404	585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103	P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
	Santa Rosa, CA 95403	Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Project Location: Lakeville, Sonoma County		
Date of Approval: March 30, 2022		

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT:

The proposed project will restore a 4,240-foot long reach of Lakeville Creek that flows through Sonoma Land Trust's 1,142-acre Sears Point Ranch Preserve and the adjacent Sonoma Raceway property in summer/fall 2023.

The project reach is deeply incised, resulting in reduced connectivity with its floodplain for the majority of the channel length. The channel and overall site conditions make the area suitable for restoration of a multi-threaded channel with extensive floodplain inundation. The design will bring the current channel back to its original grade and provide the contours for natural establishment of an anastomosing network of channels. A complex mosaic of channels, wetlands and uplands is expected to provide more diverse plant and wildlife habitat, allow for greater infiltration and storage of water, and result in a greater likelihood of sustaining wetlands into the future. The process will reconnect the channel to the surrounding floodplain and increase the duration of the seasonal water table in the adjacent floodplains and seasonal wet meadows.

The proposed project will restore the habitat located at Lakeville Creek by:

1. Grading throughout the project reach to replace the incised channel with a broad "Stage Zero" wetland complex with no defined channel; grading will consist primarily of excavation in the upper project reach and fill in the lower reach.
2. Revegetating with native perennial seed and plugs throughout the restored "Stage Zero" valley wetland complex, willow cuttings in clusters along the reach, and limited upland woody plantings.
3. Adding fencing to exclude livestock while vegetation is establishing and to facilitate limited grazing access after establishment.

EXEMPT STATUS:

Statutory Exemptions: Sec. 23. Section 21080.56 Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects


REASON WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

As lead agency, Sonoma County has determined that the sole purpose of the Project is to enhance habitat for native species including California red-legged frog, protect callippe silverspot butterfly habitat, expand valuable native bunchgrass grasslands and has no incidental public benefits nor does it include any construction activities, except for those solely related to habitat restoration. The Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and

ongoing management for the protection of the environment.

This Notice of Exemption is filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Lead Agency Contact Person:


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Permit Sonoma
Project Review Division
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