

CONFORMED COPY

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Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder

Notice of Exemption

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
PO Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95812

☒ County Clerk:
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

From:

Mendocino County Planning & Building
860 North Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Contact: IGNACIO GONZALEZ
Phone: 707-234-6650

Project Title: Irish Beach Water District Well Activation & Tank Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Irish Beach Water District (IBWD)

Project Location - Specific: Within the Irish Beach Water District boundaries. Assessor Parcel Numbers 132-210-24, 132-210-22, 132-210-21, 131-110-17

Project Location - City: Irish Beach

Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The overall project objective is to improve drought and water storage resiliency and preparedness for the 50-year-old rural community of Irish Beach, through its Water District, even in the face of potential reduced stream flows and decreasing annual rainfall. This will be accomplished by:

- (1) Installation of a conventional 11,000-gallon "bolted steel on concrete foundation" water tank. A temporary poly tank is currently used to replace a failed original 10,000-gallon ferro-cement and redwood tank. Installation of a new bolted steel tank will be used to store the water from an existing well and serve as a buffer to match pumping capacity to system water use during times when stream water is unavailable.
- (2) Equip and connect an existing proven well to the Water District system (power & watermain). Testing has shown this well will also require treatment (ozonation) for iron and manganese content. This additional well will increase available water supplies by approximately 13 acre-feet per year (AFY) and provide the necessary supplemental water when the stream diversion is unavailable. Associated improvements include installation of a 50± square foot equipment shed, PG&E connection, trenching and underground wire/piping connection within an existing easement.
- (3) Replace the containment roof on an existing (c1973) 60,000 gallon in-ground gunite water tank with an engineered metal roof. The wooden roof on this tank reached the end of its useful life in 2020 and was removed. The loss of this tank could not have come at a more inopportune time. In the project, this is where the water from the Task 2 well will be treated, stored, and enter the Irish Beach Water District system.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Irish Beach Water District, Charles Acker (General Manager)

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21070(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines section 15301, 15302, 15303 & 15304
☐ Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project includes several components, all of which can be found to be Categorical Exempt from CEQA. The new 11,000-gallon tank will replace a previously existing 10,000-gallon tank and is Categorical Exempt pursuant to section 15302(c) which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. Installation of a new tank will be used to store the water from an existing well and serve as a buffer to match pumping capacity to system water use during times when stream water is unavailable. It will not expand overall capacity of the water district rather it will make the district more resilient in times of drought. The proposed connection to the existing well will include PG&E power as well as trenching and underground wire/piping connection within an existing easement. These activities are Categorical Exempt pursuant to section 15301(a) and 15303(d) which allow for both the addition of electrical conveyances and water main extensions. CEQA Guidelines section 15304(f) also provides for minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. The proposed replacement of the containment roof over an existing water tank is Categorical Exempt pursuant to section 15302(b) which allows the replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity. All activities proposed under the Project are replacement and/or additional utility connection within an existing Water District which does not alter their service area and/or capacity, but rather provides resiliency during times of drought.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: IGNACIO GONZALEZ

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-234-6650

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: [Signature]

Date: 7-25-2022

Title: Interim Asst. Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.