

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
750 Hearst Castle Rd
San Simeon, CA 93452

PROJECT TITLE: Villa Creek Estuary Restoration Project

LOCATION: Estero Bluffs State Park

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo County

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

This project will remove agricultural land features, berms, and a road to restore hydrology and connectivity between Villa Creek, the lagoon, and historic wetlands within Estero Bluffs SP. At the 5-acre project site, work will:

- Salvage native plants and install exclusionary fencing to protect California red-legged frogs.
- Using heavy grading equipment, cut and remove approximately 15,000 cubic yards of soil comprising agricultural fill, berms, and a road and remove to off-site locations.
- Remove weeds by hand pulling.
- Using a large excavator, install large boulders and log weirs to improve habitat.
- Revegetate project site by planting salvaged plugs, seeds, and propagated native seedlings.
- Install water quality monitoring equipment and interpretive signage.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: San Luis Obispo Coast

EXEMPT STATUS

Categorical Exemption Class: 33 Section: 15333

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

This project will not exceed five acres in size and consists of the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife, and includes: revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species; wetland restoration, the primary purpose of which is to improve conditions for waterfowl or other species that rely on wetland habitat; stream or river bank revegetation, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat for amphibians or native fish; stream or river bank stabilization with native vegetation or other bioengineering techniques, the primary purposes of which are to improve habitat, and reduce or eliminate erosion and sedimentation; included as habitat restoration in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

CONTACT: Doug Barker, District Environmental Coordinator
San Luis Obispo Coast District

TELEPHONE: (805)927-2119

EMAIL: Doug.Barker@parks.ca.gov



Dan Falat, District Superintendent

DATE _____

