

## Notice of Exemption

**To:**  Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Brian Gibson

**Project Title:** Rocks Ranch

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific:** APNs 011-310-003, 011-310-004, 011-310-006 (portion), 181-141-001, 181-141-002 and 181-141-003.

**Project Location – City:** Near San Juan Bautista

**Project Location – Counties:** Monterey and San Benito; **CEQA Region:** N. CA and S. CA

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** This project includes a grant to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for a cooperative project with the Department of Conservation to acquire 2,613± acres of land to protect and preserve native oak woodlands, deer, mountain lions and maintain wildlife corridors near San Juan Bautista in Monterey and San Benito Counties. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2019228.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** John P. Donnelly, Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status:** (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15071 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15071 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:  
Public Resources Code 21080.28. Acquisition of an interest in Land by a Public Agency.

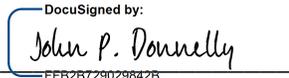
**Reasons why project is exempt:** Project involves the acquisition of interest in land for wildlife conservation purposes and the transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** John P. Donnelly

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 205-4730

**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 (by this notice)  No

Signature: DocuSigned by:  
  
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Date: 2/25/2022

Title: Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

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

**Date received for Filing:**

cc: WCB Project Tracker  
WCB Board Meeting Folder