



Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

1203 Main Street, Suite B, Morro Bay, CA 93442
805-772-4391 | www.coastalrcd.org

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814 & SLO County Clerk	From: Coastal San Luis RCD 1203 Main Street, Suite B Morro Bay, CA 93420 (805) 772-4391 hrrichard@coastalrcd.org
--	---

Project Title: Sediment Reductions for Improved Water Quality in Chorro and Los Osos Creeks

Project Applicant: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Project Location: Chorro and Los Osos creek subwatersheds, which drain into the Morro Bay Estuary within San Luis Obispo County. See attachment 1.

City: Morro Bay and Los Osos

County: San Luis Obispo

Description and Purpose of Project: The project is to implement management practices (MPs) at sites in Los Osos Creek, Chorro Creek, and Warden Creek watersheds in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loading and to implement the Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). MPs include, but are not limited to: livestock exclusion fencing; irrigation and nutrient management and/or tailwater treatment, stockwater development and/or off-channel stock water structures; upslope erosion control; swale stabilization and/or headcut hydrologic features and/or repairs; and other similar or suitable water quality improvement MPs that are approved by the Project Manager.

Public Agency Approving Project and Carrying out project: The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District will carry out the project with multiple willing landowners. The State Water Resource Control Board Nonpoint Source Grant Program approved \$800,000 in state grant funds for the above described project, and concurred that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Categorical Exempt Status:

Class 2 (Sec 15302)
Class 3 (Sec 15303)
Class 4 (Sec 15304)
Class 33 (Sec 15333)

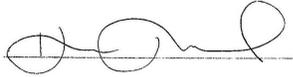
Reasons why project is exempt:

The MPs included in the project are normal agricultural activities that will occur on existing ranch lands without expansion of land uses, including replacement, reconstruction or construction of new fencing and water troughs. MPs will not involve the removal of any trees, and revegetation will be incorporated to minimize impacts. MPs adjacent to streams or watercourses are under 5 acres in size and are designed to protect and enhance fish habitat.

None of the exceptions to this exemption apply. There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. MP's will not cause cumulative impacts or have significant effects on the environment. The project will not be implemented on sensitive environments such as wetlands, is not adjacent to an official state scenic highway, will not be undertaken on property listed on any hazardous waste list, and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. See Attachment 2

Contact Person: *Hallie Richard*

Title: Conservation Programs Manager



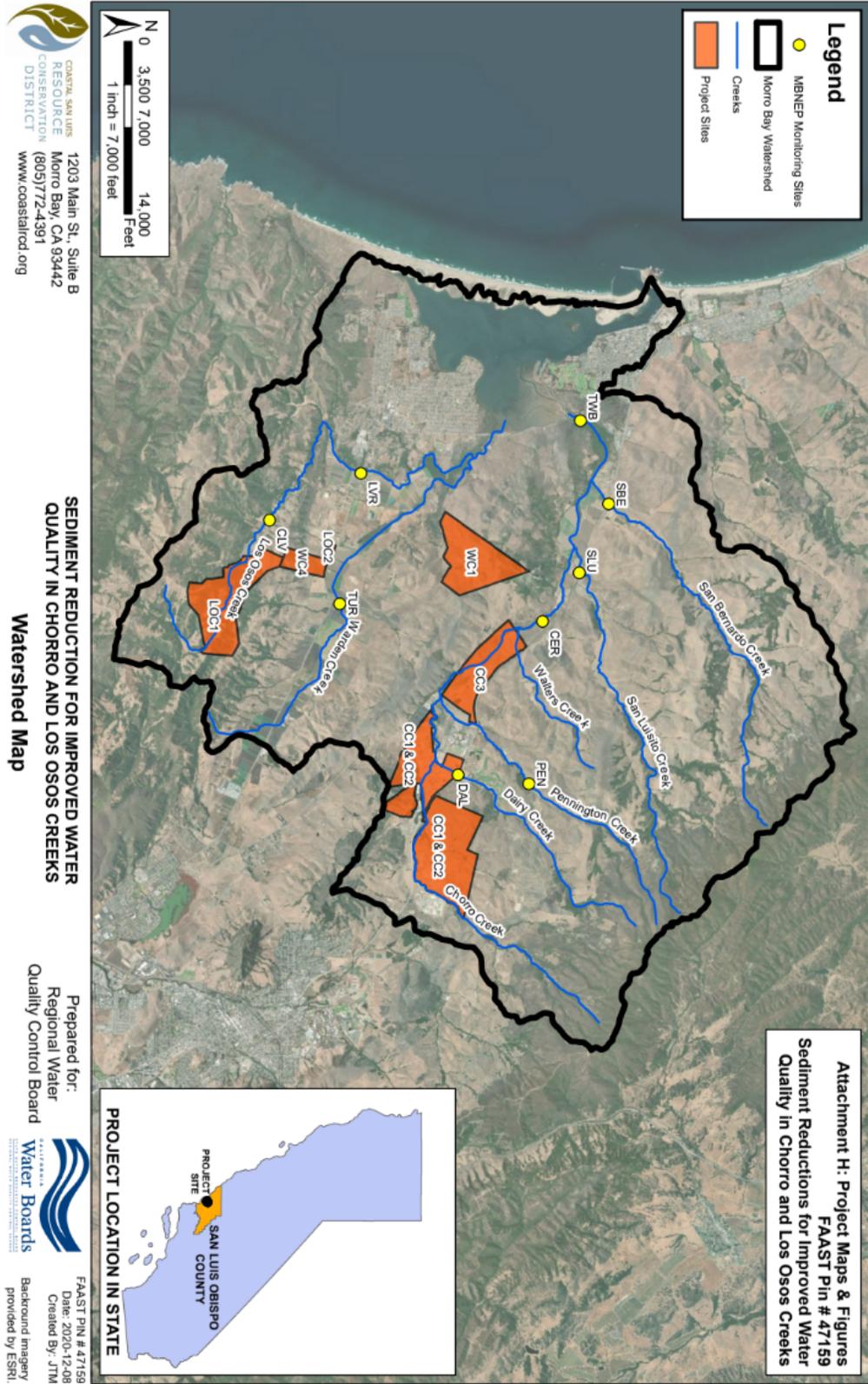
05-19/2022

Signature

Date

Date received for filing with OPR: _____

ATTACHMENT 1.



ATTACHMENT 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION		
Project Applicant: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District		
Project Name: Sediment Reductions for Improved Water Quality in Chorro and Los Osos Creeks		
Lead Agency: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District		
<p>Description: The project is to implement management practices (MPs) at sites in Los Osos Creek, Chorro Creek, and Warden Creek watersheds in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loading and to implement the Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). MPs include, but are not limited to: livestock exclusion fencing; irrigation and nutrient management and/or tailwater treatment, stockwater development and/or off-channel stock water structures; upslope erosion control; swale stabilization and/or headcut hydrologic features and/or repairs; and other similar or suitable water quality improvement MPs that are approved by the Project Manager.</p>		
<p>Environmental Setting: Management Practices are located on farm and rangeland across the Chorro and Los Osos subwatersheds, within the Morro Bay watershed. These coastal subwatersheds characteristically include rolling grasslands dominated by annual grasses such as wild oat, soft chess, stork’s bill, and fescue with scattered coyote brush and oak woodlands, bisected by ephemeral drainages that drain to Chorro and Los Osos creeks. Land uses include livestock grazing, annual row crops, and conserved open space.</p>		
Exemption Qualifications	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Class 2 Replacement or Reconstruction	X	Existing riparian fencing on rangeland will be replaced or reconstructed in the same location with the same purpose
Class 3 New Construction of Small Structures	X	New riparian fencing and stock water troughs will be installed on rangeland for the purpose of water quality improvements
Class 4 Minor Land Alteration	X	Minor alterations in the condition of ephemeral drainages on rangeland that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees
Class 33 Small Habitat Restoration Projects	X	Streambank stabilization of small erosion areas on ephemeral drainages for the purpose of fish habitat restoration.
Federal Statutes/Critical Concerns	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Agricultural Land	X	MPs are located on land zoned agriculture and used for cattle grazing and row crop production. MPs will not impact Prime Agricultural soils.
Air Quality Regulations	X	Construction of MPs may require use of equipment for short durations. Due to the small size of the MPs it is expected that air quality impacts will be insignificant and not expected to trigger any air quality permit thresholds. The majority of equipment travel will be on paved roads.
Archaeological/Historical	NA	MPs will be completed in areas already impacted by existing agricultural land uses and will result in minimal to zero ground disturbance. Creeks associated with the MPs are ephemeral and all activities will take place in the absence of flow. No archaeological or historical sites are known to exist. A records search identified no known cultural resources within APE. Cumulative MP footprints are <5 acres. In the unlikely event that an archeological site is found, work will stop immediately until a qualified professional reviews the site.
Coastal Zone	X	MPs are all within the Coastal Zone. It is not expected that planning and land management projects will trigger Coastal Development permits since the work is considered normal agricultural activities.
Endangered Species	X	A review of the California Natural Diversity Database produced a list of potential sensitive species in the Morro Bay Quadrangle. Fed T&E species and critical habitat within 3 mile radius include: Morro manzanita, marsh sandwort, salt marsh bird's-beak, SLO fountain thistle, Indian knob mountain balm, Ca seablite, steelhead, Ca clapper

		rail, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, Ca red-legged frog incl critical habitat, tidewater goby, Morro shoulderband snail incl critical habitat, Morro Bay K-rat, and western snowy plover. The project will not impact the plant species. Field survey will be conducted prior to project installation for sensitive plants suited to the habitats affected - upland annual grassland and if found, will be avoided.
Flood Plain	NA	The project will not occur within or impact adjacent floodplains.
National Forest	NA	There is no national forest within the project area.
Wetlands	NA	The project will not impact wetlands.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	NA	There are no wild and scenic rivers within the project area.
Unusual Circumstances	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Biological Resources	NA	No unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment.
Cumulative Impacts	NA	
Climate	NA	
Erosion/Sedimentation Control	NA	
Flooding/Drainage	NA	
Geologic/Seismic	NA	
Groundwater	NA	
Growth Inducement	NA	
Health and Safety	NA	
Noise	NA	
Open Space	NA	
Public Services	NA	
Recreation	NA	
Scenic Attributes	NA	
Soils	NA	
Topography	NA	
Toxic/Hazardous Materials	NA	
Water Quality	NA	
Water Supply	NA	

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDINGS

APPLICANT Coastal San Luis RCD	EXEMPTION CLASS Class 2,3,4,33	PROJECT NO.	DATE 05-19-2022
--	--	--------------------	---------------------------

PROJECT TITLE: Sediment Reductions for Improved Water Quality in Chorro and Los Osos Creeks

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS

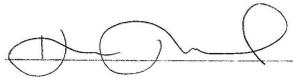
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Is there a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Will there be a significant cumulative impact by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. If a Class 1 (over 2,500ft ²), 3, or 4 exemption, might it impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. If a Class 2 exemption, will the project involve an expansion of capacity? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. If a Class 4 exemption, will the project involve removal of mature, scenic trees or grading in a waterway, wetland, officially designated scenic area, or officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> |

FINDING

Based on the preceding findings and attached worksheet, it has been determined that this project is exempt from CEQA (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304, Class 2, 3, 4 and 33).

Environmental Scientist: Hallie Richard

Signature



Date: 05-19-2022