

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

From: (Public Agency): California Department of Fish and Wildlife
2825 Cordelia Rd, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534

(Address)

Project Title: Well Installation for Seasonal Livestock Watering on the Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Project Location - Specific:

38.38783, -122.77793 (Todd Preserve) and 38.42856, -122.77824 (Wright Preserve)

Project Location - City: Santa Rosa Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

CDFW will install two wells, one on each of the Todd and Wright preserves of the Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve. The wells will facilitate livestock grazing approx. 30-40 cattle on each preserve seasonally (five to six months annually). Grazing will provide fuel management and invasive weed control, activities that benefit native flora and wildlife species. The wells will be drilled to approx. 180-feet deep. Solar-powered pumps will be installed to deliver water as needed to 300-gallon stock tanks. Small wooden enclosures will be built to house the pumps. The well locations are in low-gradient, upland grasslands and will avoid aquatic habitats and features. The project will help increase fire resiliency and reduce catastrophic fire potential that could harm native plants, animals and adjacent residential areas or agricultural operations, and improve habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304; Class IV
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Exempt under California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15304 because the project has only minor alteration to low-gradient non-native grassland and no trees will be removed. The project footprints, not to exceed approx. 15 ft x 15 ft each, will support the well and solar pump, an elevated solar panel (3 ft x 4 ft) and 300 gallon livestock trough. No endangered plants or animals exist within the project footprints. The project is expected to benefit plant and wildlife resources by allowing livestock to reduce high fuel loads that can result in high fire severity and cause lethal/permanent damage to native oak trees and other plants, and threaten residential structures within 50 feet of the Preserves. Livestock will also reduce non-native plant cover and benefit native plants and animals.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Stacy Martinelli Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-649-3007

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: Erin Chappell Date: 6/16/2022 Title: Regional Manager

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.