



Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

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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
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Project Title: Implementation of the Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement Project

Project Applicant: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Project Location: Stenner and Brizzolari subwatersheds, which drain into the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed, within San Luis Obispo County. See attachment 1.

SCH#:

City: San Luis Obispo

County: San Luis Obispo

Description and Purpose of Project: The project will implement a suite of erosion control treatments along 16 miles of rural dirt roads adjacent to and crossing Stenner Creek. Treatments include rolling dips, berm removal, out-sloping, and culvert replacements. Construction will be based on established design standards designed in alignment with CDFW protocol. The result of the project will be a reduction in road-based erosion and resulting sediment loading in Stenner creek, protecting and enhancing steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Public Agency Approving Project and Carrying out project: The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District will act as the lead agency and carry out the project on lands owned and managed by Cal Poly.

Categorical Exempt Status:

Class 1 (Sec 15301)
Class 2 (Sec 15302)
Class 4 (Sec 15304)
Class 33 (Sec 15333)

Reasons why project is exempt:

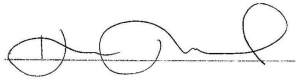
The activities included in the project consist of routine repair, replacement, reconstruction, and minor alterations of existing public roads and trails that are deteriorated and causing aquatic and water quality impairments. Cumulative area of impact will not exceed 5 acres, and will not result in significant cumulative impacts to habitat or species. No expansion of use will result from the project, and no healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed. Grading will be limited to < 10% slopes and will not occur within a waterway. All surface disturbance will be stabilized and restored. Culvert replacement will be conducted

in accordance with published guidelines of the Department of Fish and Game, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat or reduce sedimentation

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. Activities 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



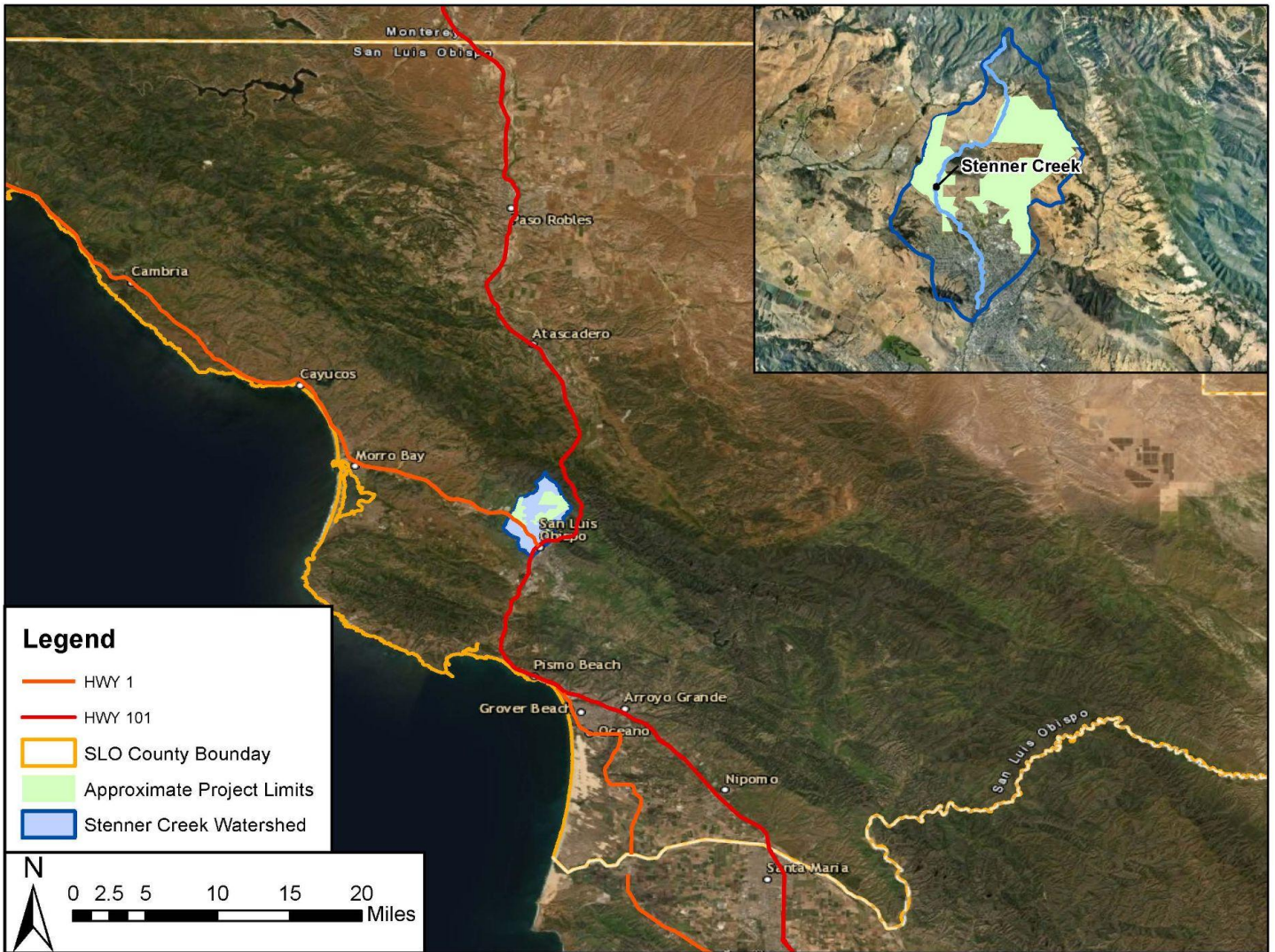
October 18, 2022

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:	Implementation of the Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement Project
Lead Agency:	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Description:	The project will implement a suite of erosion control treatments along 16 miles of rural dirt roads adjacent to and crossing Stenner Creek. Treatments include rolling dips, berm removal, out-sloping, and culvert replacements. Construction will be based on established design standards designed in alignment with CDFW protocol. The result of the project will be a reduction in road-based erosion and resulting sediment loading in Stenner creek, protecting and enhancing steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Environmental Setting: The project area is located within actively grazed rangeland and focuses on the repair and stabilization of dirt roads adjacent to and crossing riparian habitat. The project area is located in the Stenner Creek watershed, a tributary to the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed, which provides critical refugia habitat for steelhead. The subwatershed is characterized by 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. Land uses include livestock grazing, annual row crops, and conserved open space.

Exemption Qualifications	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Class 1 Existing Facilities	X	Routine maintenance of existing ranch roads adjacent and crossing riparian habitat will be conducted to prevent further degradation. It will not result in an expansion of use.
Class 2 Replacement Or Reconstruction	X	Existing ranch roads adjacent and crossing riparian habitat will be replaced or reconstructed in the same location with the same purpose
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	Road repair to reduce erosion on ephemeral drainages for the purpose of fish habitat restoration.
Federal Statutes/Critical Concerns	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Agricultural Land	X	Project area is located on land zoned agriculture and used for cattle grazing. Project will improve the function and sustainability of agricultural operations.
Air Quality Regulations	X	Construction may require use of equipment for short durations. Due to the small size of the project area it is expected that air quality impacts will be insignificant and not expected to trigger any air quality permit thresholds.
Archaeological/Historical	X	All ground disturbance associated with the project will occur in areas already impacted by existing agricultural land uses and will result in minimal to zero new ground disturbance. The reach of Stenner Creeks within the project area is 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 project footprint is <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	N/A	The project area is not within the Coastal Zone.
Endangered Species	X	A review of the California Natural Diversity Database produced a list of potential sensitive species in the San Luis Obispo Quadrangle. Fed T&E species and critical habitat within 3 mile radius include: steelhead, a red-legged frog, Pacific pond turtle, Serpentine Bunchgrass, Mouse-gray Dudleya, Brewer's Spineflower, and Congdon's Tarplant. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted for species, and site-specific BMPs will be implemented for the avoidance and minimization of impacts to the species.
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 1,2,4, & 33	PROJECT NO.	DATE 10/18/2022
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PROJECT TITLE:

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS

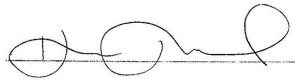
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| 1. Is there a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input 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 1, 2, 4 and 33).

Environmental Scientist: Hallie Richard

Signature



Date: October 18, 2022