

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA, 92123



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: T051 NOS (Request No. 1652-2022-053-001-R5)

Project Applicant: Korie Merrill, Center for Natural Lands Management

Project Location: The project is located at the Northwest Open Space within the City of San Juan Capistrano, County of Orange. The project is located at approximately 33.532, -117.681 and is bound by the Colinas Ridge Trail to the west and the Oso-Rancho Capistrano Trail to the east.

Project Description: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1652, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the T051 NOS submitted by Korie Merrill of Center for Natural Lands Management.

The project includes the removal of non-native and invasive plant species and the installation of native species throughout the 3.59 acre project site in order to strengthen the buffer lands adjacent to the Pacifica San Juan Preserve. Habitat complexity will be increased by removing non-native and invasive plants, such as pepper trees (*Schinus* sp.), salt cedars (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and planting appropriate native riparian and upland species such as arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). Invasive plant species will be removed through mechanical labor or chemical treatment between November and February, prior to bird nesting season, with cut material removed from the site. Following non-native and invasive plant removal, local native willow cuttings and container plants will be installed on the site. Targeted non-native and invasive species removal, installation of native cuttings and container plants, and wildlife monitoring shall occur during the first year. Follow-up treatment and removal of non-native and invasive species as well as wildlife monitoring shall continue in the second and third year. No heavy equipment shall be used.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Center for Natural Lands Management.

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33 California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333

Reasons why project is exempt: Class 33 consists of small projects not to exceed 5 acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

CDFW Contact Person: Jennifer Blackhall, Environmental Scientist, phone number (858) 354-3285, email Jennifer.Blackhall@wildlife.ca.gov.

DocuSigned by:
Edmund Pert
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12/6/2022

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Edmund Pert, Regional Manager
Region 5: South Coast

Date received for filing at OPR: _____