

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: Imperial

940 W. Main Street, Suite 202

El Centro, CA 92243

From: (Public Agency): California Natural Resource Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

Project Title: Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement Project (BBW Project)

Project Applicant: California Natural Resources Agency

Project Location - Specific:

1.5 Miles South of the city of Bombay Beach, CA. (33°21'10.5"N 115°41'48.6"W)

Project Location - City: Bombay Beach, CA Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The BBW Project will create, restore, and enhance habitats for sensitive wildlife species within an approximately 800-acre project area. It is envisioned to be implemented in two phases. Phase I includes construction of access roads, protection and enhancement of the existing wetland, and habitat expansion in an area encompassing approximately 564 acres. Phase II includes expansion of wetland habitat into an additional 236 acres as the Salton Sea shoreline continues to recede, and adaptive adjustment of features constructed during Phase I, as needed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Natural Resources Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Audubon California

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: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Restoration Project, section 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project meets the following requirements of section 21080.56:

- (a) This division does not apply to a project that is exclusively one of the following:
1. A project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend.
 2. A project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife.
- (b) An eligible project may have incidental public benefits, such as public access and recreation.
- (c) This section does not apply to a project unless the project does both of the following:
1. Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery.
 2. Includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment.
- (d) This section does not apply to a project that includes construction activities, except for construction activities solely related to habitat restoration.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mario Llanos, Deputy Asst. Secretary Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 760-562-7646

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: Mario Llanos Date: 3/24/2023 Title: Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____