

**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  
Region 4  
1234 East Shaw Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93710



*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve Grassland Restoration

**Project Location:** The project is located at the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve, seven miles northwest of San Luis Obispo, on the west side of Highway 1, in San Luis Obispo County, 35.1882284°N, -119.7621697°W.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the assistance of Cal Fire and the California Conservation Corps, plans to apply prescribed fire on approximately 100 acres of the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve to achieve ecological restoration and enhancement goals, and to reduce fuel loading to minimize wildfire risk. The prescribed burn area is the grasslands and former croplands between Chorro Creek and Highway 1 on the western portion of the Ecological Reserve. Tall fuels, comprised of coyote brush and invasive weeds, would be cut and piled or crushed prior to burning to ensure combustion. Fire control lines would be created with hand tools and tie into existing features that function as fuel breaks, such as the existing roads.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

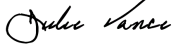
**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307 and 757(7)(D). Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This project is a regulatory agency action for protection of natural resources, specifically reduction of shrubs and invasive weed cover that are degrading the native coastal prairie grassland. Title 14, Section 757(7)(D) specifically includes controlled burning for habitat productivity as an exempt activity for CDFW. None of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 apply.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Dave Hacker (805) 594-6152

*Signature:*  *Date:* 5/18/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FA83F09FE08945A...  
Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_