



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



November 20, 2023

Jamie Whiteford
Director of Programs and Grants
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
3380 Somis Road
Somis, CA 93066
Jamie.Whiteford@vcrd.org

**California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects –
Santa Clara River Restoration (Request No. 21080.56-2023-038-R5)**

Dear Jamie Whiteford:

I am pleased to inform you as the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that I concur with the lead agency determination by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District that the Santa Clara River Restoration project qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.56, subd. (e).) My concurrence as the CDFW Director is based on CDFW's independent review of the Ventura County Resource Conservation District request for concurrence, which CDFW received on October 23, 2023. In my opinion, informed by the best available science and described in the separate CDFW concurrence, the Santa Clara River Restoration meets all the qualifying criteria in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

This concurrence signifies the continued commitment by CDFW and its partners in advancing the "Cutting the Green Tape" initiative, which is a collaborative effort to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects in California in a way that protects the environment and results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery. CDFW stands ready to continue this effort in coordination with the Ventura County Resource Conservation District.

CDFW's concurrence will be posted on our website as provided by Public Resources Code section 21080.56. If you have any related questions, please contact Brad Henderson, Cutting the Green Tape Program Manager, at (530) 351-5948, or by email at Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Jamie Whiteford
Director of Programs and Grants
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
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