

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
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Quiota Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Project (Request No. 1652-2023-064-001-R5)

Project Applicant: Timothy H. Robinson, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board

Project Location (include county): Quiota Creek, a tributary to the Santa Ynez River, in the County of Santa Barbara. Approximately 3.6 miles southwest of the City of Solvang, at approximate coordinates 34.560135, -120.085153.

Project Description: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1652, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the Quiota Fish Passage Enhancement Project submitted by Timothy H. Robinson.

The purpose of the Project is to enhance fish habitat through habitat improvement, barrier removal, and bank stabilization. The Project will mediate the limiting factors of spawning requirements (gravel, riffle-pool complex, resting areas-pools), salmonid rearing requirements (velocity, lack of shelter, pools), and fish passage (emigration and immigration). The species likely to primarily benefit from this Project are Southern California Steelhead (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*), designated as endangered species pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*) and a candidate species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*). Other species that will also likely benefit from this Project include: California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) designated as endangered species pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*), Southwestern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), and Two-striped Garter Snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*). Activities will occur over 0.34 acre.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

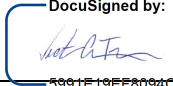
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Timothy H. Robinson, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board

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: Christian Romberger, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), (562) 292-6365

Signature:  **Date:** 9/26/2023
Victoria Tang, Acting Regional Manager
South Coast Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____