

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Riverside County
Regional Park and Open Space District

County Clerk

County of: Riverside

(Address)

Project Title: Santa Ana River Riparian Restoration, Recreation, and Protection Project

Project Applicant: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District

Project Location - Specific:

Bankfull channel of the Santa Ana River from Interstate 15 to the west and extending

Project Location - City: Multi-jurisdictional Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (Lead Agency) proposes to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend and restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dustin McLain

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: 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project's implementation of non-native vegetation removal, follow-up vegetation maintenance, active and/or passive revegetation methodologies, and refuse removal will directly restore, enhance, and protect riparian and riverine habitat by improving habitat quality and quantity. Increasing riparian habitat quality will provide immediate Page 4 benefits to local and migratory species that utilize riparian and riverine habitat types, increasing their long-term reproductive success, recruitment, and survivorship. The Project will also result in increased water quality by reducing the number of anthropogenic related sources of pollution and the frequency of wildfires resulting from the existing Anudo stands, which generally consist of dense, flashy fuel. Together, these activities are expected to improve nesting, foraging, and refuge habitat for resident and migratory terrestrial species, including the least Bell's vireo, while indirectly improving water quality and habitat quality for aquatic species such as Santa Ana sucker and Santa Ana Speckled dace.

See attached for additional details.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dustin McLain Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 951-955-4102

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: [Signature] Date: 30 OCT 23 Title: CHIEF - PARKS & 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: