

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
1450 Halyard Dr. Suite #6

West Sacramento, Ca 95691

County Clerk

County of: _____

(Address)

Project Title: Delta Rice Conversion Program

Project Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Project Location - Specific:

Sacramento County, San Joaquin County, Contra Costa County, Solano County, Yolo County

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

the Delta Rice Conversion Program will support conversion of up to 7,500 acres of agriculture in the Delta to wildlife-friendly rice. Rice cultivation slows subsidence, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides ecosystem benefits, particularly for migratory birds, compared to non-rice row crops.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Nature Conservancy

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: Section 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

There will be no expansion of use, as farming activities have been established practices at the potential project locations. Conversion to rice does not result in physical changes to the environment, damage to scenic resources, historic resources or create significant environmental or cumulative impacts, due to being implemented on existing farms.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Dr. Rachel Wigginton Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-634-3682

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: *Meth Wigginton* Date: 10/25/2023 Title: Board Chair

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: _____



RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY FINDING THE DELTA RICE CONVERSION PROGRAM EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.

Whereas, the Delta Rice Conversion Program (Project) will support conversion of up to 7,500 acres of agriculture in the Delta to wildlife-friendly rice; rice cultivation slows subsidence, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides ecosystem benefits, particularly for migratory birds, compared to non-rice row crops; and

Whereas, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorically exempts certain projects from environmental review, including minor alterations of land (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15304); and

Whereas, CEQA provides that if a project is categorically exempt, environmental review is not required, provided that there are no unusual circumstances, the project will not have the potential to cause a significant environmental effect, and certain identified exceptions to the exemption are not triggered (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15300.2); and

Whereas, the Project does not have the potential to significantly affect the environment or otherwise present any unusual circumstances; and

Whereas, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy is the lead agency for the Project, and its governing Board is the decision-making body for the Project; and

Whereas, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a)(2), the documents that constitute the record for the Project may be viewed on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's website for 30 days or inspected at its office by any person.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:

- a. The Board of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy finds, based on the whole record before it in its independent judgment, that the Project is exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations

Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15304 and that there are no exceptions, including unusual circumstances, that apply to the Project nor any evidence to suggest that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment; and

- b. The Board of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy hereby authorizes and directs its staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the California State Clearinghouse; and
- c. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are located on the Delta Conservancy's website (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>).

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS OCTOBER 25, 2023.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 3



Mitch Mashburn, Board Chair