

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

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

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: (Public Agency): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
1450 Halyard Dr. Suite #6  
West Sacramento, Ca 95691

(Address)

Project Title: Land Acquisition on Bethel Island

Project Applicant: The John Muir Land Trust

Project Location - Specific:

7025 Bethel Island Rd, Bethel Island, CA 94511

Project Location - City: Bethel Island Project Location - County: Contra Costa County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Land Acquisition on Bethel Island project will acquire a 600-acre parcel located on Bethel Island, California for permanent protection and stewardship. Acquisition is the first phase of an anticipated multi-phase project to restore wetlands, riparian forest, and sand dunes on the property.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The John Muir Land Trust

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 15313, subsections (a) and (c)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project will acquire the property at Hoover Ranch for the explicit purpose of habitat restoration and provision of wildlife habitat.

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: *Mitch Mark* 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. 2023-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY FINDING THE LAND ACQUISITION ON BETHEL ISLAND PROJECT EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.**

**Whereas**, the Land Acquisition on Bethel Island project (Project) will acquire a 600-acre parcel located on Bethel Island, California, for permanent protection and stewardship; acquisition is the first phase of an anticipated multi-phase project to restore wetlands, riparian forest, and sand dunes on the property; and

**Whereas**, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorically exempts certain projects from environmental review, including acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat or preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15313, subsections (a) and (c)); 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 15313, subsections (a) and (c) 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