

## Notice of Exemption

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
South Coast Region 5  
3883 Ruffin Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92123  
[Angela.Castanon@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Castanon@wildlife.ca.gov)



**Project Title:** Arroyo Conejo Invasive Plant Removal (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-VEN-21148-R5)

**Project Location (Ventura County):** The Arroyo Conejo Invasive Plant Removal project (Project) is located 1.8 miles downstream of Hillcrest Drive in Thousand Oaks, California, within Ventura County. The Project site can be located using the following information: Latitude 34.19122°, Longitude - 118.91641°; Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 667-0-072-075, 663-0-060-185, 526-0-150-225, 526-0-162-195, and 526-0-110-385.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has amended Streambed Alteration Agreement number EPIMS-VEN-21148-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District as represented by Brian Stark.

The project is limited to the Arroyo Conejo Invasive Plant Removal project on Arroyo Conejo Creek. The Project consists of the restoration of riparian habitats and removal of non-native vegetation in a high fire hazard severity zone along Arroyo Conejo Creek in Thousand Oaks, CA. The target species for removal are giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*). The total area colonized by giant reed is approximately 2.02 acres and there are approximately 60 mature Mexican fan palms within the project reach. There are four reaches within the Project site. Project activities will proceed from Reach 1 to Reach 4, with initial giant reed and Mexican fan palm biomass removal scheduled to occur between October 1, 2022 and January 31, 2023. Due to elevated water levels, the low water crossing along Reach 2 is inaccessible. To allow equipment access, two mature willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) will be removed flush to the ground to access shallower water just adjacent to the original alignment. The willows will be cut flush to the ground and allowed to regrow.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** CONEJO OPEN SPACE COSERVATION AGENCY AS REPRESENTED BY BRIAN STARK

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This project is less than five acres, will not significantly impact any sensitive resources, and will remove non-native vegetation from the area.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Angela Castanon, Environmental Scientist, [Angela.Castanon@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Castanon@wildlife.ca.gov) or at (626) 513-6308.

DocuSigned by:

*Heather A. Pert*

Signature:

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Date: 10/31/2023

Heather A. Pert, Acting Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_