

Notice of Exemption

To:

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

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Kelly.fisher@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Annual Channel Mowing (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SDO-39223-R5)

Project Location (San Diego County): The Annual Channel Mowing Project (Project) is located within the bed, channel, and bank of Rattlesnake, Green Valley, Poway, and Beeler creeks, throughout the City of Poway, County of San Diego, State of California; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map Poway and Escondido quadrangles, Township 13 South Range 2 West, Township 14 South Range 1 West, and Township 14 South Range 2 West, SBM.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SDO-39223-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the City of Poway.

The Project is routine channel clearing and vegetation maintenance associated with the City of Poway Annual Channel Mowing Project. The mowing program encompasses 4.8 miles out of the 105 miles of four distinct drainage channels/creeks within the City of Poway, representing about 4.5% of the total drainage system. Since the program began in 2008, these channel areas have been mowed annually with a flail-type mower that finely shreds the cattail/marsh cover leaving it in a 3 – 6” layer on the ground surface. Maintenance staff are able to maneuver the equipment within specific areas of the channel to ensure a specific flow line is maintained. The mulch layer decomposes by the following fall, by which time marsh cover has grown back to its original height. At the time of the mowing, crews are also able to access and eradicate invasive exotic species such as giant reed, ornamental trees/palms, tamarisk, castor bean, and pampas grass, as well as remove trash, debris, and encampments.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: CITY OF POWAY

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. [State code number]
- Categorical Exemption. Type –Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section (15304)

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project is Categorically Exempt as a Class 4 Minor Alteration of Land in that the project involves minor public and/or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy mature trees.

CDFW Contact Person: Kelly Fisher, Environmental Scientist; (858) 354-5083; Kelly.fisher@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:
Heather A. Pert
Signature: _____ Date: 11/7/2023
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Heather A. Pert, Acting Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____