

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Wildlife Conservation Board**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Don Crocker

**Project Title:** San Benito County US-101 Wildlife Crossing Planning

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**

The Caltrans right-of-way along US-101 in San Benito County, near the border with Monterey County.

**Project Location – City:** 3 miles east of San Juan Bautista

**Project Location – County:** San Benito

**CEQA Region:** N. CA

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**

Completion of the environmental review, permitting, and 95% designs for a wildlife crossing structure across U.S. 101 that will improve habitat connectivity between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Gabilan Range. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2023056.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):  
 Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:  
 Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:  
 Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:  
 Statutory Exemptions, State code Number: Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies  
 Other:

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

The project involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions, which the board has not approved, adopted, or funded.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Rebecca J. Fris

**Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (916) 212-5637

**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, (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** DocuSigned by:  
Rebecca J. Fris

**Title:** Deputy Executive Director

**Date:** 11/21/2023

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code

**SCH #:**  
**Posted Date:**  
**Date Received for Filing at OPR:**