

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: Hayley Pechner

Project Title: Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary Restoration

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

Audubon California Starr Ranch Sanctuary

Project Location – City: Three miles east of Rancho Santa Margarita

Project Location – County: Orange

CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

This Project will restore rare, unique, and declining upland habitats including globally-endangered coastal sage scrub, needlegrass grasslands, and cactus scrub to benefit birds of conservation concern including the Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Coastal Cactus Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark. The Project will include invasive species removal with non-chemical methods, followed by planting and ongoing maintenance of these sites. This project will also include songbird monitoring. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2023203.

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: Section 15304, Class 4
 Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
 Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

The Project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

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:

ec: WCB Project Tracker
WCB Board Meeting Folder