

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: Kurt Malchow

Project Title: Building Wildlife-Friendly Resilience in Working Landscapes - Roots 86

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

APN: 0221200470. USFWS Quad: Tres Pinos, T12S, R06E, Section 35. The project is located in San Benito County in the Santa Ana Valley. The property is zoned for agricultural use and features an organic olive orchard that is surrounded by grazed and ungrazed grassland habitat.

Project Location – City: Hollister

Project Location – County: San Benito

CEQA Region: Unincorporated

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

Bella Vista Ranch is located on a hillside in the Diablo Range foothills overlooking the fertile Santa Ana Valley in Hollister, CA. The 10-acre olive orchard is surrounded by open range that is important for wildlife connectivity, though not far from Hollister's urbanizing edge. The main goal of the project is to increase pollinator resources by planting a 2.01 acre hedgerow and adjacent upland pollinator planting area. A secondary goal is to install raptor perches and owl boxes to decrease gopher, vole, and ground squirrel pressure. The hedgerow will provide habitat for native pollinators, songbirds, and invertebrates. Perches and nest boxes will provide habitat and nesting places for raptors and owls. Planting implementation will engage and involve local under-served schools, students, and community members. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2022065.

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: Class 33 (CCR Section 15333) Small Habitat Restoration Project
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

WCB has determined that the objectives to restore and enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants or wildlife not to exceed five acres in size.

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: 1/23/2024

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: