



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Santa Cruz District  
303 Big Trees Park Road  
Felton, CA 95018

**PROJECT TITLE:** Pescadero North Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project

**LOCATION:** Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve

**COUNTY:** San Mateo

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Project consists of the removal of artificial features and invasive species in the Pescadero North Marsh and Pond area of Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve to restore ecologic, geomorphic, and hydraulic processes. Project work will partially remove a levee, ditch, and culvert system, construct wooden habitat structures, and perform vegetation management. Associated work is as follows:

- To support geomorphic and hydraulic processes between the Pescadero North Marsh and Pond and Pescadero Creek:
  - Use sheet piles and/or fillable bladder dams to dewater drainage ditches and main drainage channels;
  - In conjunction with the dewatering, fish will be rescued and relocated;
  - If needed, excavate or mechanically breach the sand berm to manage the lagoon's water levels;
  - Use excavators and scrapers to lower levees, remove drainage ditches and culverts, naturalize topography, and restore passive hydraulic processes; and
  - Construct habitat structures and place fill in drainage channels and ditches.
- To construct up to 38 wooden habitat supporting structures:
  - Install 13 Buried Log Weirs throughout main drainage channels;
  - Install Aquatic Habitat Structures in unfilled, remnant drainage channels;
  - Install 11 Marshplain Habitat Structures along north marsh marshplain; and
  - Install up to 7 Topple Tree Habitat Structures in Pescadero Creek.
- For vegetation management:
  - Remove ice plant, European dune grass, and Eucalyptus trees; and
  - Use native seed collected on site to revegetate work areas.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Santa Cruz District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Statutory Exemption; California Public Resource Code 21080.56

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15025(a)(1), and this project meets all the requirements described in the California Public Resources Code, section 21080.56, because the Project is exclusively a project to restore and enhance habitat for California native fish and wildlife. The project obtained concurrence from the

Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, that the project qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project on February 14, 2024.

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X Chris Spohrer

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Chris Spohrer  
District Superintendent