

**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:** Wildlife Habitat and Community Resilience on Working Lands – Roots #74

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

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

The project will be implemented in a oak woodland and riparian area located on a land trust's 226 acre ranch preserve (APN: 015-030-011-000) within the Upper Chowchilla River Watershed in Mariposa County.

**Project Location – City:** Mariposa

**Project Location – County:** Mariposa

**CEQA Region:** Unincorporated

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

The overall goal of this project is to enhance riparian system functioning and ecological value for wildlife while engaging the local community and tribal nations in conservation and cultural practices. The 8.7-acre project will increase native plant species abundance and diversity to improve and expand habitat value for a diversity of birds, mammals, amphibians, and other wildlife. The project will also improve and protect the condition of cultural resources and vegetation utilized for cultural means on the landscape.

Initial project phases will remove target invasive plant species (3 acres), including Himalayan blackberry, from impacted riparian corridors and upland areas using a variety of proven non-herbicide restoration methods. Subsequent revegetation of native plant species (4.45 acres) will be a collaborative effort with Indigenous partners from the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation to ensure that plant species selected will maximize survivorship, ecological, and cultural benefits. Above ground temporary irrigation will be installed where deemed necessary and the construction of fencing infrastructure (2,427 linear feet) to protect restoration sites and sensitive areas.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Exec. 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: CCR Section §15304 - Minor alterations to land.
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

WCB has determined that the objectives of enhancement and restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation, and therefore fit within the CCR Section §15304 exemption.

**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:** 

**Title:** Acting Executive Director

**Date:** 3/8/2024

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:**

ec: WCB Project Tracker  
WCB Board Meeting Folder