

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Mail Stop: A-33
ARCC-Recorder
Attn: CEQA Postings
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: Mail Stop: 029
County of San Diego,
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Chelsea Oakes
5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

State Clearinghouse
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
P.O. Box 3044

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Issuance of Right of Entry Permit Number SM 2024 04-01

Project Location: Santa Margarita County Preserve; located approximately 5.5 miles west of I-15, 9 miles north of State Route 76, and 2 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Fallbrook in San Diego County.

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, 5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 565-3600

Project Description: This project involves the issuance of Right of Entry Permit number SM 2024 04-01 for the purposes of performing surveys and counts of Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Santa Margarita River.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: 3/29/2024

County Contact Person: Shannon Quigley-Raymond

Telephone: (619) 694-6801

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Director of Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above described project on **3/29/2024** and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
- Statutory Exemption. C Section:
- Categorical Exemption. G Section(s): 15306 Information Collection
- G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
- Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
- G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt under Section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines as the project involves the issuance of Right of Entry Permit number SM 2024 04-01 for information collection activities. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will perform surveys and counts of Southern California steelhead. The data collected will be used by CDFW to determine the status of the species and the effectiveness of restoration activities upstream of Santa Margarita County Preserve. Additionally, the project will not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; does not contribute to cumulative environmental impact; will not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and does not cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Oakes, Chelsea Digitally signed by Oakes, Chelsea
Date: 2024.03.29 16:01:12 -07'00' Telephone: 619-315-9095

Name (Print): Chelsea Oakes Title: Group Program Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.