
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Lead Agency: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Contact Person: Mia Riddle
mia@sanmateoRCD.org
650-712-7765 ext. 130

Filed To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

and

San Mateo County Clerk
555 County Center
Redwood, CA 94063

Project Title: Financial and Technical Assistance to Potrero Nuevo Farm for Conservation and Carbon Farming Practices

Project Location: Potrero Nuevo Farm
1045 Tunitas Creek Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Description of the Nature and Purpose of Project:

The San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) received grant funding originating from the Wildlife Conservation Board, an entity of the State of California that advances wildlife conservation, to implement practices that improve soil health and vegetation for the purpose of mitigating climate change and improving wildlife habitat on working agricultural lands. The Financial and Technical Assistance to Potrero Nuevo Farm for Conservation and Carbon Farming Practices project will provide funding, designs and technical assistance to Potrero Nuevo Farm to implement practices identified in a site-specific Conservation and Carbon Farm Plan previously prepared by the RCD. Implementation will include rangeland seeding and compost application, conservation practices designed to mitigate climate change by drawing greenhouse gases down from the atmosphere and storing them in biologically rich soil, aka "carbon farming." The RCD will not be the implementing party. The RCD previously completed CEQA for the compost application portion of the project (State

Clearinghouse Number 2022080192 posted August 9, 2022). This Notice of Exemption is for the technical and financial assistance for rangeland seeding.

Exempt Status:

Common sense exemption. The discretionary action is to provide financial and technical assistance for environmental conservation practices that will be implemented by a private landowner. This project qualifies for a “common sense exemption,” as it does not involve implementation actions that may impact the environment. Nonetheless, implementation activities would also be subject to Class 1 and Class 4 categorical exemptions.

Class 1- Existing Facilities (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304). Rangeland seeding will involve no expansion of use beyond that which currently exists in the active agricultural operation.

Class 4- Minor Alterations to Land (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15333). Rangeland seeding will cause *de minimis* alterations of topographical features, will improve soil health with no significant physical changes to the environment, and will not damage scenic or historic resources. The practices will not create significant environmental or cumulative impacts, partly because they are environmentally beneficial practices and partly because they will take place on land already in agricultural production.

Date of Determination: 05/23/2024

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.



Mia Riddle, Conservation Project Manager