

**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:** El Monte Preserve Cactus Scrub Restoration Augmentation

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

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

The El Monte Preserve is located along the upper San Diego River in Lakeside, an unincorporated community in San Diego County.

**Project Location – City:** Santee

**Project Location – County:** San Diego

**CEQA Region:** Unincorporated

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

The purpose of this project is to restore approximately 15 acres of cactus scrub habitat within the El Monte Preserve, to help satisfy several objectives outlined in the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan Subarea Plan. WCB Project ID: 2023220.

**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: Section 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

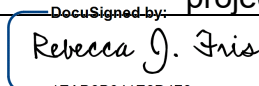
**Reasons why this project is exempt:**

The project involves removal of invasive vegetation and reestablishment of native plants to create habitat beneficial for the state and federally listed coastal cactus wren, on a designated wildlife preserve.

**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:  
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**Title:** Deputy Executive Director

**Date:** 6/3/2024

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:**