
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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

County Clerk of: San Mateo

Project Title: Riparian Restoration, Hedgerows, and Hazard Tree Removal near Green Oaks Creek

Project Location: 2250-2080 Cabrillo Highway Pescadero, CA 94060

City and County: Unincorporated San Mateo County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The Riparian Restoration, Hedgerows, and Hazard Tree Removal near Green Oaks Creek Project (project) will include removal of invasive plants and restoration of riparian habitat along Green Oaks Creek and planting of hedgerows on the adjacent fields. The project will also include removal of fire damaged hazard trees and Eucalyptus trees in areas affected by the 2020 CZU fire.

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project:

San Mateo Resource Conservation District
80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Lead Agency
Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Timothy Federal Telephone: 650-712-7765 ext.124

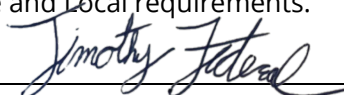
EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption, Class 4 (15304)

Remarks: See next page.

Date of Determination: 6/17/2024

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



Timothy Federal, Conservation Program Manager

REMARKS:

This Project will remove hazard trees and invasive species, restore riparian habitat by revegetating with native species, and improve agricultural conditions by planting native hedgerows. The following provides a brief description of the project, and an explanation for why the project qualifies for exemption from CEQA environmental review Class 4 [CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15304].

Project Description

The San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD), working alongside private landowners and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT), plans to remove hazardous and/or invasive vegetation from up to 8 acres of land in unincorporated San Mateo County. AMLT will grow and plant native species that will be used to plant hedgerows in areas where invasive species are removed, where feasible and appropriate.

The goals for the Project are to: 1) Restore riparian habitat along approximately 0.6 miles of Green Oaks Creek, 2) reduce hazards posed by standing dead, fire damaged trees to roads, utility corridors, and human life, and 3) create a native hedgerow to improve agricultural conditions and pollinator habitat on adjacent fields. Target invasive species include Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) and other non-native, herbaceous species. No healthy, mature, scenic, or otherwise significant trees will be removed except to improve forest conditions, wildlife habitat, and/or agricultural conditions.

Class 4 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15304)

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

Examples of this exemption that this project is most related to include, but are not limited to:

(b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire-resistant landscaping.

The project will replace fire damaged and hazardous non-native trees with native species that are fire resistant, improving landscape resiliency and community safety in the face of wildfires. The project also includes revegetation of disturbed areas with native species.

(i) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions

The project will remove hazardous fuels within 100 feet of roads, powerlines, and buildings in an area highly susceptible to hazardous fire conditions. CAL FIRE has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required where feasible in this area for the best protection against wildfires.