

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
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From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400
Seal Beach, CA 90740
EPIMS.R5@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Santa Clara River and Coast Restoration Project (Project) (Streambed Alteration Agreement, No. EPIMS-VEN-13439-R5).

Project Location (Ventura County): The Project is located at various locations within the Santa Clara River Watershed, within Ventura County, California.

Project Description: On November 7, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) executed Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-VEN-13439-R5 pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602 for the Project, which will be carried out by The Nature Conservancy, as represented by Peter Dixon.

The Project involves restoring/enhancing the SCR to a more natural condition to improve habitat within the watershed. Project activities include invasive vegetation removal; trash and debris removal; native plant revegetation; and maintenance of habitat restoration areas. Invasive vegetation removal will be conducted with hand tools such as loppers, chainsaws, and hand weeding. Mechanical mastication may be conducted on large, dense stands of arundo, using tracked-type equipment (e.g., a bobcat) with masticator heads. Removal methods (e.g., hand removal, mechanical removal, herbicide application) will be chosen depending upon time of year; severity of infestation; presence of native plants; wildlife and sensitive species; proximity to surface water; budget; and other considerations.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)
- Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: CDFW has determined that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive. CDFW's determination is supported by (1) The Ventura County Resource Conservation District's October 23, 2023, initial determination as lead agency that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) through (d), inclusive; and (2) pursuant to Section 21080.56, subdivision (e), the CDFW Director's November 21, 2023, concurrence with that The Ventura County Resource Conservation District's determination, which is available at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP/Concurrences>.

CDFW Contact Person: Angela Castanon, Environmental Scientist, (626)-513-6308,
Angela.castanon@wildlife.ca.gov

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Signature: _____ Date: 11/7/2024
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Victoria Tang, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____