

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: Crystal Benham
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: Accept grant funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Community Conservation Planning Local Assistance Grant Program for the Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren.

Project Location: Lakeside Linkage Preserve (Preserve), located north of the City of El Cajon and west of Lake Jennings Reservoir, in southwestern San Diego County, California (specifically Assessor Parcel Numbers 3970606600 and 3970611100).

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92123

Project Description: Adoption of resolution authorizing acceptance of grant funding from the Local Assistance Grant Program funds for the Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren Project.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: January 29, 2025

County Contact Person: Jennifer Price

Telephone: (619) 507-8368

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors has approved the above-described project on **January 29, 2025 (3)** 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): 15304. Minor Alterations to Land
- 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 qualifies for a CEQA Categorical Exemption under section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land because the project involves minor alterations in the condition of vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Removal and thinning of native and invasive non-native plant species in and around restored cactus patches will result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources, particularly coastal cactus wren and coastal California gnatcatcher. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat, there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site and there are no significant cumulative conditions. 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: _____ Telephone: (858) 966-1370

Name (Print): Crystal Benham 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.