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# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:**
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

**From:**
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
Contact: Megan Rooney
Email: Megan.Rooney@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (559) 203-2792

Lead Agency
California Department of Parks and Recreation
750 Hearst Castle Road
San Simeon, CA 93452
Contact: Katie Drexhage
Email: katie.drexhage@parks.ca.gov
Phone: (805) 712-4768

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2018028143 and 2026010619

**Project Title:** Villa Creek Estuary Restoration Project (Amendment No. 1 to Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SLO-58208-R4)

**Project Location:** The Project is located at the Villa Creek estuary, within Estero Bluffs State Park, in the census-designated place of Cayucos, San Luis Obispo County; centered at 35.46190, -120.97042; Sections 27 and 35, Township 28 and 29 South, Range 9 and 10 East; U.S. Geological Survey Map Cayucos; Accessor's Parcel Numbers 046-151-004 and 046-161-008.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Amendment No. 1 to Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-SLO-58208-R4, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to California Department of Parks and Recreation (Permittee), represented by Katie Drexhage.

Permittee aims to restore the estuary of Villa Creek by removing remnant anthropogenic features, improving intertidal connection, and enhancing native biodiversity. Project activities include: the establishment of a staging area and access roads; clearing and grubbing; grading; installation of exclusionary fencing; installation of large wood features; and revegetation. The Project will impact approximately 3.87 acres of salt and freshwater marsh habitat and 0.96 acres of upland habitat.

The amendment authorizes the installation of a temporary work area isolation system. The system is intended to isolate turbidity within the work areas and ensure fish are prevented from accessing the work areas until turbidity settles. The system is only necessary for final grading, when connections to the wetted channel are established.

**Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**
Katie Drexhage
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
(805) 712-4768
Katie.Drexhage@parks.ca.gov
750 Hearst Castle Road
San Simeon, California 93452

**Exempt Status:** On June 14, 2021, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, as Lead Agency, determined that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15333. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), the Lead Agency is responsible for determining whether the Project is exempt from CEQA and that determination shall be final and conclusive on all persons, including Responsible Agencies. As a result, CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, is bound by the Lead Agency's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Megan Rooney (Environmental Scientist), (559) 203-2792, Megan.Rooney@wildlife.ca.gov

*Signature:* DocuSigned by: Julie Vance FA83F09FE08945A... *Date:* 11/19/2026

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager