

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Mailing address: P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Jasen Yee

Project Title: Banning Ranch

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: Located adjacent to the southern bank of the Santa Ana River, just inland from where the river drains into the Pacific Ocean, in Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, Orange County, California APNs 114-170-24, 114-170-43, 114-170-49, 114-170-50, 114-170-52, 114-170-56, 114-170-72, 114-170-73, 114-170-75, 114-170-77, 114-170-79, 114-170-80, 114-170-83 and 424-041-04

Project Location – City: Newport Beach and Costa Mesa Project Location – County: Orange
CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: To consider the allocation for a grant and subgrant to the Trust for Public Lands with the immediate succession of the grants to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire 385± of land for the protection of upland and lowland habitat consisting of wetlands, vernal pools, marsh lands, arroyos, and coastal sage scrub that support both state and federally endangered species including the Coastal California gnatcatcher, San Diego fairy shrimp, Least Bell’s vireo, and Pacific Pocket mouse and; to provide for potential wildlife habitat preservation, restoration and management, wildlife-oriented education and research, and for compatible public or private uses, located in the cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach in Orange County. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2020073.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: John P. Donnelly, Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15073):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15071 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15071 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:
Section 15313, Class 13 and Section 15325, Class 25
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
Public Resources Code 21080.28. Acquisition of an interest in Land by a Public Agency.

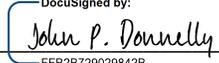
Reasons why project is exempt: Project involves the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats.

Lead Agency Contact Person: John P. Donnelly

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 205-4730

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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Date: 5/26/2022

Title: Executive Director

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.

Date received for Filing:

cc: WCB Project Tracker
WCB Board Meeting Folder