

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Project Title: Gaviota Creek Improvement Project, Gaviota Creek Permanent Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Caltrans District 5

Project Location - Specific: On US 101 within Gaviota Creek from post mile 46.9 to 47.3

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: Santa Barbara

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project consists of two related actions, the Gaviota Creek Improvement Project and the Gaviota Creek Permanent Restoration Project, that have been combined for PA&ED and future phases, including construction if feasible. The project consists of improvements to historical fish access at several locations within Gaviota Creek and adjacent to U.S. 101 in Santa Barbara County from postmile 46.9 to 47.3. The project includes the phased removal of six grade control structures, construction of fish passage elements, removal of an existing sacked concrete revetment wall, installation of a retaining wall to stabilize the highway embankment, and native species replanting.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans District 5

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans District 5

Exempt Status (**check one**):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15333, Class 33 Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project size is less than five acres and is proposed to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, and to restore and provide habitat for California native fish

and wildlife. The project will include a work area approximately 3.5 acres in size that includes disturbance in Gaviota Creek and surrounding riparian areas.

Additionally, Caltrans has determined there would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat; there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and the project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effect of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dianna Beck

Phone number: (805) 459-9406

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 No

Signature: Dianna Beck Date: 5/21/26 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.