

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Conservation Board
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Kurt Malchow

Project Title: Wildlife Habitat and Community Resilience on Working Lands – Roots #119

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

The project will be implemented in an oak woodland and riparian area located on a county school system educational ranch preserve (APN: 219-200-032) within the North Fork Tule River Watershed in Tulare County.

Project Location – City: Springville

Project Location – County: Tulare

CEQA Region: Unincorporated

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

The overall goal of this 500-acre project is to enhance oak woodland and riparian system functioning and ecological value for wildlife while engaging the local community and tribal nations in conservation and cultural practices. The project will increase native plant species abundance and diversity to improve and expand habitat value for a diversity of birds, mammals, amphibians, and other wildlife. The project will also improve and protect the condition of cultural resources and vegetation utilized for cultural means on the landscape.

The project will focus on the revegetation of native plant species as a collaborative effort with Indigenous partners from the Tule River Tribe to ensure that plant species selected will maximize survivorship, ecological, and cultural benefits. Above ground temporary irrigation will be installed where deemed necessary and the construction of fencing infrastructure to protect restoration sites and sensitive areas. Structures for wildlife such as bird and insect nest boxes, and pond turtle basking rafts will also be installed to quickly increase available habitat. (WCB Project Tracker ID: 2022065).

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: CCR Section §15304 - Minor alterations to land.
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

WCB has determined that the objectives of enhancement and restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation, and therefore fit within the CCR Section §15304 exemption.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rebecca J. Fris

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 212-5637

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:  **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 12/20/2024

☒ 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

SCH #:
Posted Date:
Date Received for Filing at OPR: