



State of California – Natural Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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*GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor*

*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



March 25, 2025

Jamie Whiteford

Executive Director

Ventura County Resource Conservation District

PO Box 147

Somis, CA 93066

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**California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects –  
Ventura River Watershed Riparian Resilience Program (Request No. 21080.56-2025-067-R5)**

Dear Jamie Whiteford:

I am pleased to inform you as the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that I concur with the lead agency determination by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD) that the Ventura River Watershed Riparian Resilience Program qualifies as a statutorily exempt restoration project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.56, subd. (e).) My concurrence as the CDFW Director is based on CDFW's independent review of the VCRCD request for concurrence, which CDFW received on January 10, 2025. In my opinion, informed by the best available science and described in the separate CDFW concurrence, the Ventura River Watershed Riparian Resilience Program meets all the qualifying criteria in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

This concurrence signifies the continued commitment by CDFW and its partners in advancing the "Cutting the Green Tape" initiative, which is a collaborative effort to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects in California in a way that protects the environment and results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery. CDFW stands ready to continue this effort in coordination with the VCRCD.

CDFW's concurrence will be posted on our website as provided by Public Resources Code section 21080.56. If you have any related questions, please contact Brad Henderson, Cutting the Green Tape Program Manager, at (530) 351-5948, or by email at [Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Jamie Whiteford, Executive Director  
Ventura County Resource Conservation District  
March 25, 2025  
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