



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 South Coast Region
 3883 Ruffin Rd
 San Diego, CA 92123
 (858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
VALERIE TERMINI, Acting Director



To:
 Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Ventura River Watershed Riparian Resilience Watershed Project (Project), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Restoration Management Permit Number RMP-2025-0013-R5 (RMP) (State Clearing House Number: 2025050589)

Project Location (Ventura County): The approximately 2,000-acre Project is located within the Ventura River Watershed in Ventura County at approximate center coordinates of 34.370550, -119.309577.

Project Description: On January 13, 2026, CDFW issued the RMP pursuant to section 1670 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code to the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (District) for the Project.

The Project includes management or propagation activities intended to benefit native fish, wildlife, plants, or their habitat, or a combination thereof. The Project includes the physical removal of invasive plant species and active revegetation with native riparian plant species throughout the Ventura River Watershed. The Project is expected to increase community resilience of native riparian habitat and benefit multiple native species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act, including southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*).

Public Agency Approving Project:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Jamie Whiteford
 Ventura County Resource Conservation District
 Executive Director
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 PO Box 147
 Somis, CA 93066
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RMP-2025-0013-R5

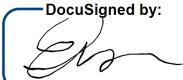
January 13, 2026

Exempt Status: The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. Under Public Resources Code section 21080.1, subdivision (a), the lead agency is responsible for determining whether a project is exempt from CEQA, and that determination is final and conclusive on all persons, including responsible agencies. Notwithstanding Section 21080.1, subdivision (a), a lead agency's determination that a project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56 is only valid if the exemption determination is made after the Director of CDFW has concurred with the lead agency's preliminary determination that the project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

On January 10, 2025, the District made a preliminary determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive. On March 27, 2025, the Director of CDFW concurred with the District's preliminary determination. On May 14, 2025, the District as CEQA lead agency made a final determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, and the District determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. CDFW, now acting as a CEQA responsible agency for the issuance of the RMP on January 13, 2026, is bound by the District's determination on May 14, 2025, that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

CDFW Contact Person:

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Signature: _____ **Date:** 1/13/2026

Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager
South Coast Region

Date received for filing at LCI: