

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
*For U.S. Mail:*  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Region 4  
1234 East Shaw Ave.  
Fresno, California 93710



*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve and San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area Grassland Restoration

**Project Location:** The project is located at the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve and the adjoining San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area, seven miles northwest of San Luis Obispo, on the both sides of Highway 1, in San Luis Obispo County, 35.1882284°N, -119.7621697°W. See Exhibit A.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the assistance of Cal Fire and the California Conservation Corps, plans to apply prescribed fire on approximately 500 acres of the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve and adjacent San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area to achieve ecological restoration and enhancement goals, to reduce fuel loading to minimize wildfire risk. The prescribed fires will be implemented in three separate burns. Phase 1 of the prescribed burn area is the approximately 150 acres of grasslands and former croplands between Chorro Creek and Highway 1 on the southern portion of the Ecological Reserve. Phase 2 of the prescribed burn area is approximately 225 acres of grasslands and former croplands will be the northern unit, north of Highway. Phase 3 of the prescribed burn area of approximately 120 acres of the San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area to reduce fuel loading and minimize wildfire risk. The prescribed burn area is within an active sport shooting range and is subject to frequent ignition exposure.

Tall fuels, comprised of coyote brush and invasive weeds, would be cut and piled or crushed prior to burning to ensure combustion. Fire control lines would be created and integrated with existing features that serve as fuel breaks, such as the existing roads.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

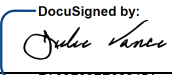
**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307 and 757(7)(D). Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.

**Reasons why the project is exempt:** This project is a regulatory agency action for protection of natural resources, specifically reduction of shrubs and invasive weed cover that are degrading the native coastal prairie grassland and reduction in fire risk associated with the facilities activities. Title 14, Section 757(7)(D) specifically includes controlled burning for habitat productivity as an exempt activity for CDFW. None of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 apply.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Brandon Swanson (805) 305-8291

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/19/2025  
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 Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Exhibit A: Project Map

