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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:** Kendall Webster

Project Title: Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Expansion 3 (Garrapata Ridge)

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

417-021-024

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Merced

CEQA Region: N. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

Protection and preservation of maritime chapparal with small areas of American southwest riparian forest and woodland, and to provide for potential future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities, as an expansion to California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Joshua Creek Canyon ER. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2023225.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: John P. Walsh, 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: CEQA Section 21080.28
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

Project involves the acquisition of land for conservation purposes, to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats.

Lead Agency Contact Person: John P. Walsh

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 539-8016

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: DocuSigned by: John Walsh 3286244C820E470... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 5/23/2025

☑ 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:**

ec: WCB Project Tracker
WCB Board Meeting Folder