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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: Michael Shaw

Project Title: Elfin Acres

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

264-053-11, -12, and -19.

Project Location – City: San Marcos

Project Location – County: San Diego

CEQA Region: S. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Nontraditional Section 6 Grant Program Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to The Escondido Creek Conservancy, and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to The Escondido Creek Conservancy, 96± acres of land for the protection of habitat for the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher habitat, and to protect southern mixed chaparral, Diegan coastal sage scrub, open Engelmann oak woodland and emergent wetlands within City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Program located in San Marcos, in San Diego County. WCB Project ID: 2024104.

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: Sec.15313, Class 13 and Sec.15325,Class 25
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

Project involves the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation 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 3286244C820F47D... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 8/28/2025

☑ 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