EAST STANISLAUS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Filed to: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk of: Stanislaus County

Project Title: *Rancho Azul Pollinator Habitat Plan*

Project Location: Projects are located on a privately owned u-pick blueberry ranch in Knights Ferry, Stanislaus County.
APN #s: 002-063-060

City and County: Knights Ferry, Stanislaus County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The *Rancho AzulPollinator Habitat Project* will enhance pollinator habitat on privately owned farmland to benefit wildlife such as pollinators, and other beneficial insects. The installation of hedgerows is a standard conservation practice. The East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District will be working with a private landowner to complete the project.

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project: East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District; 3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste. E, Modesto, CA 95358

Lead Agency ☒ Responsible Agency ☐

Contact Person: Gabriela Cervantes

Telephone: (209) 287-3644

EXEMPT STATUS:
Categorical Exemptions, Class 33 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15333)

Remarks: See page 2.

Date of Determination:
09/09/25
I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.

x _____*Gabriela Cervantes*_____

Gabriela Cervantes, Watershed Coordinator
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District

REMARKS:

The East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District along with California Association of Resource Conservation districts and the Wildlife Conservation board is planning to carry out habitat restoration projects to create habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects.

This Project will install hedgerows to create habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects. Hedgerow installation is a routine and regular farming practice, which will be used in this project for the benefit of pollinators. This project focuses on planting native species to encourage habitat creation. The project sites will sit along the edge of the farm property, with a total length of approximately 409.2ft, well below 5 acres in overall size. The following provides an explanation for why this project qualifies for exemption from CEQA environmental review Class 33 [CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15333].

Class 33 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15333) Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five (5) acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. The following points list the criteria for projects to meet Categorical Exemption Class 33 Section 15333.

(a) There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065,

The proposed project is designed specifically to benefit threatened species, such as native pollinator species. The project would provide the habitat needed to forage, take refuge, rest, and reproduce.

(b) There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed, and no hazardous materials are known to be on the project site.

(c) The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. This project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects because the proposed project is for the purpose of habitat creation for sensitive wildlife. This project would not have adverse effects on farmland, public services, soils, waterways, or human health.

(d) Examples of small restoration projects may include, but are not limited to:

(1) revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species; native plant species will be prioritized in use for hedgerow installation on farmland. Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21084, Public Resources Code.

(4) projects to restore or enhance habitat that are carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.