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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: Kurt Malchow

Project Title: Building Wildlife Habitat and Community Resilience on Working Lands - Roots 178

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

APN 012-140-022-000 and 012-140-028-000. Approximately 5,461 linear feet of wildlife-friendly fencing will be installed and 7.21 acres of wildlife and pollinator habitat will be planted on the Nyland property in San Juan Bautista in San Benito County, California. Township 12S, Range 04E, Section 32 of the "San Juan Bautista" 7.5 quadrangle.

Project Location – City: San Juan Bautista

Project Location – County: San Benito

CEQA Region: Unincorporated

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

The San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT) acquired the 540-acre Nyland property in June 2023. This working cattle ranch has a healthy riparian forest along all except the last 1,800 feet of a creek that eventually flows under Highway 156 and leaves the property. There is also a 900-foot-long unvegetated tributary to the creek. Project goals include replacing and installing wildlife-friendly fencing to exclude cattle from the creek and active restoration efforts by the Amah Mutsun Land Trust's (AMLT) Native Stewardship Corps, student volunteer planting events facilitated by Point Blue's STRAW Program, and working in collaboration with local partners to support pollinator plantings and invasive weed removal and management. The AMLT will support the habitat restoration work by collecting and propagating native plant seeds and planting them in the riparian area. Founded by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (AMTB), AMLT is an Indigenous-led nonprofit that combines traditional Indigenous environmental management with contemporary restoration, scientific research, and cultural revitalization to steward the lands and waters within the ancestral territories of Indigenous Mutsun and Awaswas peoples. Several small mammals, such as coyote, bobcat, skunk, long-tailed weasels, as well as birds and pollinators, will benefit from native plant resources from this newly established vegetated riparian corridor. (WCB Project Tracker ID: 2022065).

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, 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: Class 4 exemption (CCR Section §15304) covers minor alterations to land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

WCB has determined that the objectives of enhancement and restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation, and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemptions.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rebecca J. Fris

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 212-5637

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: Signed by: Rebecca J. Fris 1EAD9B041E6D478... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 10/6/2025

☑ 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