Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Santa Clara
110 W Tasman Dr, 1st Floor
San José, CA 95134

From: (Public Agency): Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
535 Alkire Avenue, Suite 100
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(Address)

Project Title: Pacheco Pass Wildlife Connectivity Project

Project Applicant: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

Project Location - Specific:
SR 152, PM 27.5 to 34.6

Project Location - City: Hollister Project Location - County: Santa Clara County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (Lead Agency) proposes to construct up to three (3) wildlife crossing structures (WCS) along SR 152 between PM 27.5 to 34.6 (the Project). Two of the proposed WCS are girder bridge overcrossing designs, and one proposed WCS is a tunnel undercrossing design. To guide wildlife to the WCS, up to 10 miles of directional fencing will be erected within 10 feet of either side of SR 152. The project aims to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend and restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife. The Project is designed to benefit native species, including elk, mule deer, mountain lions, and other mesocarnivores, through removal of barriers to seasonal movement and species dispersal. Additionally, by creating up to three WCS and other restoration features, the Project will minimize wildlife mortality and wildlife-vehicle conflicts along a section of SR 152, where the restoration activities are being implemented.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Pursuant to PRC § 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project meets all of the following conditions described in PRC § 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d): (a) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (b) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (c) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (d) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. The CDFW concurred with this finding on September 24, 2025. See Attachments to Notice of Exemption for the Project's SERP Request form and for CDFW SERP Concurrence.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Edmund Sullivan Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 408-779-7265

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 ▪ No

Signature: _____ Date: 10/08/2025 Title: Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2011

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