

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: Merced

2222 M Street

Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): _____
East Merced Resource Conservation District
2926 G Street. STE#102 Merced, CA 95340

(Address)

Project Title: Riverdance Pollinator Habitat

Project Applicant: East Merced Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

12230 Livingston-Cressey Rd. 37.413774(LAT) , -120.707576(LONG)

Project Location - City: Livingston Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The pollinator habitat project will be implemented at Riverdance Farms, located in the heart of the Central Valley in Eastern Merced County. The project site encompasses a diverse, family owned organic farm known for its commitment to sustainable practices and community engagement with "U-Pick" features.

The core objectives of this project are to foster on-farm biodiversity, create a reliable native habitat for pollinators and contribute to long-term agricultural resilience in Merced County.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: East Merced RCD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Assoc. of RCD's through East Merced RCD

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: 14 CCR § Section 15304(b) Minor alterations to land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

As described in 14 CCR § 15304(d), Phase I of this project consists of minor alterations to the vegetation on an active "u-pick" organic farm, in Eastern Merced County. The expected result of Phase I will be installation of native habitat for wildlife and pollinators in particular Monarch butterflies. Phase II of this project consists of evaluating the site and where appropriate, planning for additional restoration in any future phase(s).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Zachary Wells Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 510-862-9891(cell)

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: Zachary Wells Date: 11/18/2025 Title: Executive Director

■ 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: _____