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: Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): Merced Subbasin GSA
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
(Address)

2026-EIR-005

FILED
January 14, 2026
MATT H. MAY
COUNTY CLERK
By _____
Deputy Clerk

Project Title: Nevada Ranch Merced LP - Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Gladstone Land Corporation

Project Location - Specific:
Nevada Ranch is located along South Santa Fe Avenue, approximately 4 miles southeast of the city of Le Grand and approximately 11 miles west of the Eastman Lake Recreation Area.

Project Location - City: Le Grand Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project transitions approximately 150 acres of the Nevada Ranch from organic almond production to wildlife habitat and cattle grazing. This project involves the creation/restoration of upland and pollinator habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainablity Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Gladstone Land Corporation

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 § 12102.4. Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land.
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
Class 4 categorical exemptions "consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes". In this project, orchard trees will be removed as part of a regular agricultural practice and will be replaced with native grassland vegetation for cattle grazing. These alterations will result in improved habitat for upland mammals and birds species and will keep the land in agricultural production.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Lacey McBride Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-385-7654

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: Lacey McBride Date: 1/14/2026 Title: Secretary

X 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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