2026 012210
FILED
Jan 16 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar–Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CARINA CHEN

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County of Los Angeles
County Clerk
Environmental Filings
12400 Imperial Highway, Room 1201
Norwalk, California 90650

From: County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
Land Management Section
1000 South Fremont Avenue Unit #40
A-9 West, Third Floor
Alhambra, California 91803

Project Title: Browns Canyon Property Transfer to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Project Location - Specific: Browns Canyon Staging Area
12080 Browns Canyon Road, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Community of Twin Lakes/Oat Mountain

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

In March of 2015, the County acquired the subject 27.15-acre Green Ranch property in Browns Canyon (Property), for the purpose of building an equestrian facility and trailhead to provide access and trail connectivity to the thousands of acres of open space at the adjacent Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch. The County has already cleared the Property by removing debris, trash, vehicles, equipment and dilapidated structures including the previous equestrian center and all other structures. The County has also added approximately 100 feet of coral fencing running both directions from the entrance gate, performed minor repairs to the gate as well as adding road base approximately 50 feet on each side of the bridge to prevent erosion.

LA County Parks coordinated with the Department of Public Works (PW) to investigate the Property and the requirements of converting the current private road, which serves as the sole site access, to legal public access. Per PW's investigation, the rough cost estimate to upgrade the private road to current standards was estimated at approximately $2,000,000, with an additional $150,000 required every few years for maintenance. This estimate, however, did not include unforeseen events such as fires and storm washouts that would require additional expensive road repairs and/or reconstruction. Due to potential unforeseen costs, the initial PW estimate is not a clear indicator of future maintenance costs for the road. As such, the County's ability to forecast future maintenance costs toward securing future access rights for the Property via the sole private road that provides ingress and egress, renders further development of the Property by the County infeasible.

To ensure continued public trail access, regional connectivity, and long-term preservation of the site as open space in perpetuity, LA County Parks will transfer the property to MRCA for permanent ownership and stewardship. The MRCA is a joint powers agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, parklands, wildlife habitat, watershed lands, and trail systems throughout the region. Within the Browns Canyon area, MRCA manages significant public lands, including the adjacent 257-acre Hidden Creeks Parkland and the 11,000-acre Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch, which together contain an extensive multi-use trail network.

The proposed transfer will protect existing trails within the property and support the enhancement of regional trail connectivity, including potential future linkages with the adjacent Porter Ranch residential

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community in the City of Los Angeles and with the MRCA's Hidden Creeks property. The action will ensure the continued operation of the property as publicly accessible open space and preserve opportunities for future trail improvements consistent with the regional trail network in the Santa Susana Mountains.

The MRCA will maintain the property in perpetuity for public use, ensure trails remain open and available for multi-use recreation, and install signage identifying the property as public land and noting its hours of operation. This action advances the Board's priorities to expand equitable access to parks and trails, strengthen regional connectivity, and protect critical natural lands and habitat corridors within Los Angeles County's system of parks and open space.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Los Angeles County

Name of Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Los Angeles County

Exempt Status (check one)**:**

Article 19. Categorical Exemptions

☑ Categorical Section 15325
Class 25 (f)

☑ County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 25

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is consistent with State Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA. The project is consistent with Section 15325, Class 25, which provides for transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. This includes, but is not limited to, Class 25(f) for the acquisition, sale, or other transfer to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

The project is also consistent with the County CEQA Guidelines. The project is consistent with Class 25, which provides for transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space.

The County has considered the cumulative impact of the proposed project and determined that the cumulative impact would not result in significant effects on the environment that would constitute an exception to the use of Class 25 Categorical Exemption, as described in Section 15300.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines.

The County has considered the potential for significant impacts on the environment resulting from the project and determined that there are no unusual circumstances that would result in significant effects on the environment, constituting an exception to the use of Class 25 Categorical Exemption, as described in Section 15300.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines.

The project will not result in damage to scenic resources, such as trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, or involve work within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway that would constitute an exception to the use of Class 25 Categorical Exemption, as described in Section 15300.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21084(c) of the CEQA Statutes.

The project does not involve work on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code relating to solid and hazardous wastes and does not constitute an exception to the

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

use of Class 25 Categorical Exemption, as described in Section 15300.2(e) of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21084(d) of the CEQA Statutes.

The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as specified in Section 21084.1 of the CEQA Statutes, and does not constitute an exception to the use of Class 25 Categorical Exemption, as described in Section 15300.2(f) of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21084.1 of the CEQA Statutes.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jui Ing Chien **(Area Code) Telephone/Ext.** (626) 588-5317

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

Chien, Jui Ing	01/16/2026	**Park Planner**
Signature, Jui Ing Chien	*Date*	*Title*

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THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

N January 16 2026

NTIL February 17 2026

EGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

State of California—Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT Number: 19 — 01/16/2026 — 202601160530001

STATE CLEARING HOUSE # *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES/DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		01/16/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING		**DOCUMENT NUMBER**
LA		2026012210

PROJECT TITLE

BROWNS CANYON PROPERTY TRANSFER TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL		PHONE NUMBER
JUI CHIEN			(626)588-5317
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	**CITY**	**STATE**	**ZIP CODE**
1000 S. FREMONT AVE #40 A-9 WEST THIRD FLOOR	ALHAMBRA	CA	91803

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box):*

☑ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,227.50	$ 0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$3,043.75	$ 0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,437.25	$ 0.00
☑ Exempt from fee		
☑ Notice of Exemption (attach)		
☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)		
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)		
☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850.00	$ 0.00
☑ County documentary handling fee		$ 25.00
☐ Other		$ 0.00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☑ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ 25.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	CARINA CHEN, ITC

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT COPY - CDFW/ASB COPY - LEAD AGENCY COPY - COUNTY CLERK DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01/01/2025)