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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: South County Habitat Restoration Program

Lead Agency: County of Santa Cruz

Contact Name: Mark Connolly

Email: Mark.Connolly@santacruzcountyca.gov Phone Number: 831-454-2682

Project Location: The southern portion of Santa Cruz County

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The South County Habitat Restoration Program is a voluntary, multi-year program proposed by the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County to remove non-native eucalyptus and restore native habitats within an approximately 11,585-acre Program Area in southern Santa Cruz County, including the unincorporated communities of Day Valley, Pleasant Valley, Aptos Hills–Larkin Valley, and Corralitos. The Program includes eucalyptus removal, invasive species management, biomass management, and restoration of native vegetation communities to reduce wildfire risk, protect property, and support recovery of the federally endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and other native wildlife. With implementation of mitigation measures, all potential environmental impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Initial Study identified potentially significant impacts related to biological resources and noise. Potential impacts to sensitive habitats and special-status species would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through implementation of mitigation measures MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-4, including pre-construction surveys, avoidance buffers, seasonal work restrictions, biological monitoring, and habitat protection measures. Temporary construction-related noise impacts would be reduced through implementation of MM NOI-1 through MM NOI-4, including limits on construction hours, equipment restrictions, and noise control measures. With mitigation, no significant or unavoidable environmental impacts would occur.

Potentially significant impacts to biological resources and noise were identified. Implementation of mitigation measures MM BIO-1–MM BIO-4 (biological surveys, avoidance buffers, seasonal restrictions, and monitoring) and MM NOI-1–MM NOI-4 (construction hour limits and noise controls) would reduce all impacts to less-than-significant levels.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

At the time of preparation of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, no areas of controversy are known to the Lead Agency. Any comments received during the public review period will be addressed in accordance with CEQA.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NOAA Fisheries; and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.