

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency  
535 Alkire Avenue, Suite 100  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**PROJECT TITLE:** Richmond Ranch & Calero County Park Stock Pond Desedimentation and Restoration Project

**LOCATION:** Richmond Ranch Reserve and Calero County Park

**COUNTY:** Santa Clara

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, in coordination with Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation, will implement restoration of seven existing stock ponds across Richmond Ranch Reserve and Calero County Park. Stock ponds on both properties historically provided water for cattle grazing and aquatic breeding habitat for native amphibians, including California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog. Over time, sediment accumulation and minor structural degradation have reduced pond depth, hydroperiod, and habitat quality. The project restores ecological functions of these existing ponds.

Project activities include:

- Removal of approximately 1,545 cubic yards of accumulated sediment
- Minor stabilization and repair of existing pond infrastructure
- Limited recontouring within existing pond basins to create a mix of deep pool and shallow margin habitat
- Installation of approximately 1,000 linear feet of welded wire panel fencing at select ponds
- Placement of small woody debris habitat features (not exceeding 80 square feet per pond; 540 square feet total)
- Temporary dewatering, if necessary

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption

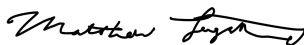
Class: 33

Section: 15333

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** The project qualifies for the Class 33 categorical exemption because it does not exceed 5 acres in size and consists of restoration and enhancement activities within existing artificial stock ponds. Short-term construction effects are temporary, localized, and consistent with typical habitat restoration actions. The project will not result in significant adverse impacts to biological resources. Restoration actions are designed to improve long-term aquatic habitat conditions.

**CONTACT:** Matthew Fogarty  
Lead Conservation Biologist, SCVHA

**PHONE NO.:** (650) 353-0271  
**EMAIL:** matthew.fogarty@scv-habitatagency.or



---

Matthew Fogarty  
Lead Conservation Biologist,  
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

2/27/2026

---

Date