

## Notice of Exemption

<b>To:</b> Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814	<b>From:</b> Department of Fish and Wildlife <b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b> P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 99244-2090
<b>County Clerk (County of):</b> N/A	<b>Attention:</b> Jen Stanfield

**Project Title:** Pepperwood Preserve Habitat Resilience

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location – Specific: APN(s)**  
 38.581389, -122.704722

**Project Location – City:** Santa Rosa

**Project Location – County:** Sonoma

**CEQA Region:** N. CA

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:**  
 Oak woodland and grassland restoration on 893 acres of private preserve land impacted by wildfire in 2017 and 2019. Project activities include conifer removal in oak woodlands, invasive plant treatment using manual and mechanical methods, prescribed burning, and native plant propagation/planting for biodiversity enhancement and habitat resilience. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2025119.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**

Ministerial (Sec. 15268):  
 Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:  
 Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:  
 Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type:  
 Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:  
 Other: March 1, 2025 proclamation by Governor Newsom

**Reasons why this project is exempt:**  
 The Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the March 1, 2025, Proclamation of State of Emergency by Governor Newsom suspending CEQA for projects expediting critical fuels reduction. The California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency issued a Secretarial Suspension Authorization for the Project on December 17, 2025.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Rebecca J. Fris

**Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (916) 212-5637

**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, (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** DocuSigned by: John Walsh for Rebecca Fris **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 3/2/2026

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code	<b>SCH #:</b> <b>Posted Date:</b> <b>Date Received for Filing at OPR:</b>
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