

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Mail Stop: A-33
ARCC-Recorder
Attn: CEQA Postings
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: Mail Stop: 029
County of San Diego,
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Crystal Benham
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92123

State Clearinghouse
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
P.O. Box 3044

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Issuance of Right of Entry Permit Number SELER 2026 03-09

Project Location: San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 565-3600

Project Description: The project involves the issuance of Right of Entry Permit Number SELER 2026 03-09 for the purpose of conducting light-footed Ridgway's rail surveys.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: March 4, 2026

County Contact Person: Linnea Wier

Telephone: 619-803-6626

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Director of Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above described project on **March 4, 2026** and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
- Statutory Exemption. C Section:
- Categorical Exemption. G Section(s): 15306 Information Collection
- G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
- Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
- G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt under Section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves information collection work by means of field surveys for the bird species light-footed Ridgway's rail, in which bird response calls will be recorded by biologists at randomly selected sampling points. Additionally, the project will not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; does not contribute to cumulative environmental impact; will not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and does not cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Crystal Benham Digitally signed by Crystal Benham
Date: 2026.03.04 17:33:19 -08'00' Telephone: 619-539-4155

Name (Print): Crystal Benham Title: Chief

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.