



Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
&
SLO County Clerk

From: Coastal San Luis RCD

1203 Main Street, Suite B
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-4391
rravarra@coastalrccd.org

Project Title: Sediment Reductions on Tomorro Farm for Improved Water Quality in Chorro Creek

Project Applicant: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Project Location: Private, agricultural land on O'Connor Road in San Luis Obispo County. APN: 067-051-022. The project is located in the Chorro Creek subwatershed within the Morro Bay watershed (HUC 12 18060006) on the California Central Coast, which drains into the Morro Bay Estuary. Coordinates: 35.315006, -120.741330. Coordinates represent the center of the project area. See Attachment 1.

SCH#:

City: Unincorporated

County: San Luis Obispo

Description and Purpose of Project: The project is to implement management practices (MPs), including headcut repair and associated streambank stabilization measures, to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Chorro Creek and support implementation of the Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Treatments at Tomorro Farm will use low-tech, process-based restoration (LTPBR) techniques to stabilize headcuts and restore natural hydrologic function. These treatments may include Small Habitat Restoration Projects, less than five acres, that ensure a positive impact for fish, plants, or wildlife (as eligible for an exemption listed below), such as beaver dam analogs (BDAs), native streambank and upland revegetation, and temporary cattle exclusion fencing to support vegetation establishment and protect restored areas. In addition to reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading, project benefits include enhanced wildlife habitat, improved soil health, and increased groundwater recharge.

Public Agency Approving Project and Carrying out Project: The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District will carry out the project with willing landowners. The State Water Resource Control Board Nonpoint Source Grant Program approved state grant funds for the above-described project, and concurred that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Categorical Exempt Status:

Class 4 (Sec 15304)
Class 33 (Sec 15333)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The objective of this project is to restore, enhance, and protect habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife. Project practices within or adjacent to streams and watercourses will be implemented primarily with hand

labor and will not include the use of heavy machinery. Headcut repair treatments will be completed using bioengineering techniques, such as beaver dam analogs and revegetation using native plant species. The project size will not exceed five acres.

There is no substantial evidence of unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts that threaten the environment. The project will not cause cumulative impacts or have significant effects on the environment. The project will result in minimal ground disturbance and is not expected to impact historical and cultural resources. The project will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened species, and there are no hazardous materials at the project site that may be disturbed. See Attachment 2.

Contact Person: Hayley Barnes

Title: Conservation Program Manager

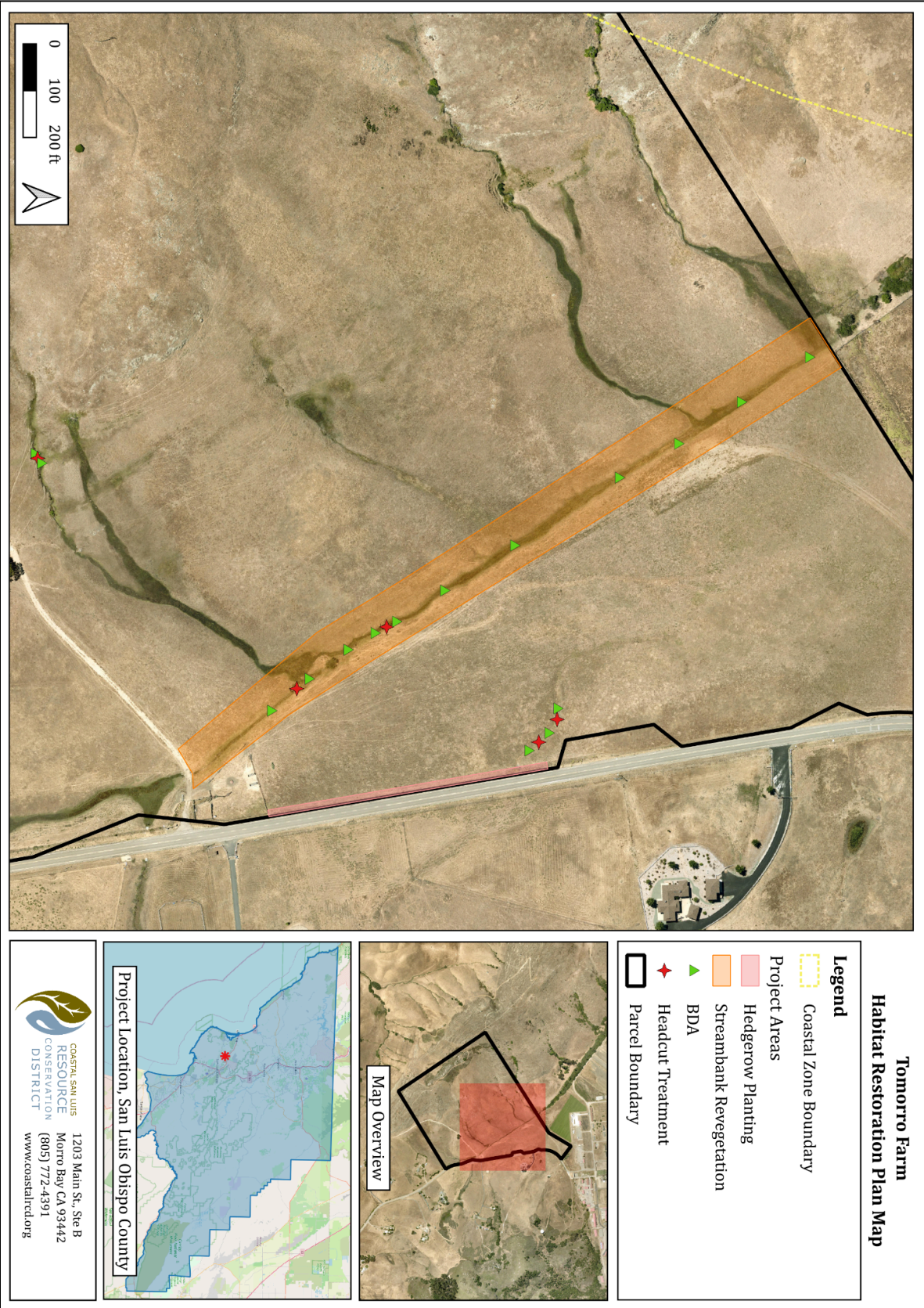

Signature

5/12/2026

Date

Date received for filing with OPR: _____

ATTACHMENT 1.



ATTACHMENT 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION		
Project Applicant: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District		
Project Name: Tomorro Farm Habitat Restoration		
Lead Agency: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District		
Description: The project is to implement management practices (MPs), including headcut repair and associated streambank stabilization measures, to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Chorro Creek and support implementation of the Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Treatments at Tomorro Farm will use low-tech, process-based restoration (LTPBR) techniques to stabilize headcuts and restore natural hydrologic function. These treatments include beaver dam analogs (BDAs), native streambank and upland revegetation, and temporary cattle exclusion fencing to support vegetation establishment and protect restored areas. In addition to reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading, project benefits include enhanced wildlife and downstream fish habitat, improved soil health, and increased groundwater recharge.		
Environmental Setting: Practices are located on a farm and rangeland in the Chorro Creek subwatershed, within the Morro Bay watershed. This coastal sub-watershed characteristically includes rolling grasslands dominated by annual grasses such as wild oat, soft chess, stork's bill, and fescue with scattered coyote brush and oak woodlands, bisected by ephemeral drainages that drain to Chorro Creek. Land uses include livestock grazing, annual row crops, and conserved open space. The project size will not exceed five acres.		
Exemption Qualifications	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Class 4 Minor Land Alteration	X	Minor alterations in the condition of ephemeral drainages on rangeland that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees
Class 33 Small Habitat Restoration Projects	X	Streambank stabilization of small erosion areas on ephemeral drainages with the primary purpose of improving native fish and amphibian habitat.
Federal Statutes/Critical Concerns	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Agricultural Land	X	The project is located on land zoned for agriculture under the Williamson Act. Agricultural operations include cattle grazing and row crop production. Project activities will not impact Prime Agricultural soils.
Air Quality Regulations	X	Project activities will not require the use of heavy machinery. Due to the project size, it is expected that air quality impacts will be insignificant and not expected to trigger any air quality permit thresholds. The majority of equipment travel will be on paved roads, and materials will be moved manually.
Archaeological/Historical	NA	Project activities will be completed in areas impacted by existing and historical agricultural land use and will result in minimal ground disturbance. Creeks within the project area are ephemeral, and all activities will take place in the absence of flow. No archaeological or historical sites are known to exist within the project areas. A records search completed by the County of San Luis Obispo identified no known cultural resources within the project area. In the unlikely event that an archeological site is found, work will stop immediately until a qualified professional reviews the site.
Coastal Zone	X	Project activities will not take place within the Coastal Zone.
Endangered Species	X	A review of the California Natural Diversity Database and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation resource produced a list of potential sensitive species in project areas. Fed T&E species and critical habitat within a 3 mile radius of the project area include: California Jewelflower, Chorro Creek Bog Thistle, Morro Manzanita, Pismo Clarkia, Spreading Navarretia, Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp, Monarch Butterfly, California Red-legged Frog, Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, Western Spadefoot, Southwestern Pond Turtle, California Condor, California Ridgeway's Rail, Least

		Bell's Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Giant Kangaroo Rat, San Joaquin Kit Fox. The project will not impact plant species. A field survey will be conducted prior to project installation for sensitive plants suited to the habitats affected, and if found, will be avoided. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted for species, and BMPs will be implemented for the avoidance and minimization of impacts to the species.
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Flood Plain	NA	The project will not impact adjacent floodplains.
National Forest	NA	There is no national forest within the project area.
Wetlands	NA	The project will not impact wetlands.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	NA	There are no wild and scenic rivers within the project area.
Unusual Circumstances	Applicable Items	Supporting Information or Explanations
Biological Resources	NA	No unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment.
Cumulative Impacts	NA	
Climate	NA	
Erosion/Sedimentation Control	NA	
Flooding/Drainage	NA	
Geologic/Seismic	NA	
Groundwater	NA	
Growth Inducement	NA	
Health and Safety	NA	
Noise	NA	
Open Space	NA	
Public Services	NA	
Recreation	NA	
Scenic Attributes	NA	
Soils	NA	
Topography	NA	
Toxic/Hazardous Materials	NA	
Water Quality	NA	
Water Supply	NA	

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDINGS**APPLICANT**
Coastal San Luis RCD**EXEMPTION CLASS**
Class 4,33**PROJECT NO.****DATE**
04-13-2026**PROJECT TITLE:** Tomorro Farm Habitat Restoration**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Is there a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances? YES ☐ NO ☒ UNDETERMINED ☐
2. Will there be a significant cumulative impact by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time? YES ☐ NO ☒ UNDETERMINED ☐
3. If a Class 1 (over 2,500ft²), 3, or 4 exemption, might it impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law? YES ☐ NO ☐ NA ☒ UNDETERMINED ☐
4. If a Class 2 exemption, will the project involve an expansion of capacity? YES ☐ NO ☐ NA ☒ UNDETERMINED ☐
5. If a Class 4 exemption, will the project involve removal of mature, scenic trees or grading in a waterway, wetland, officially designated scenic area, or officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard? YES ☐ NO ☒ NA ☐ UNDETERMINED ☐

FINDING

Based on the preceding findings and attached worksheet, it has been determined that this project is exempt from CEQA (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304, Class 4 and 33).

Environmental Scientist: Hayley Barnes**Signature****Date: 05/12/2026**