

Notice of Exemption**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region 4
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Big Sandy Wildlife Area Grassland Restoration

Project Location: The project is located at the Big Sandy Wildlife Area, four miles northwest of San Miguel on the east side of Highway 101, in San Luis Obispo County, 35.797021, -120.726498.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the assistance of Cal Fire and the California Conservation Corps, plans to apply prescribed fire on approximately 350 acres of the Big Sandy Wildlife Area to achieve ecological restoration and enhancement goals and to reduce fuel loading to minimize wildfire risk. The prescribed burn area is the grasslands between Indian Valley Road and Highway 101. Tall fuels, comprised of yellow star thistle and other invasive weeds, will be cut and piled or crushed prior to burning to ensure combustion when necessary. Fire control lines will be created with and tie into existing features that function as fuel breaks, such as the existing roads.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

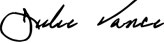
Exempt Status:

☐ Statutory Exemption.

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307 and 757(7)(D). Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.

Reasons why project is exempt: This project is a regulatory agency action for protection of natural resources, specifically reduction of shrubs and invasive weed cover that are degrading the native coastal prairie grassland. Title 14, Section 757(7)(D) specifically includes controlled burning for habitat productivity as an exempt activity for CDFW. None of the exceptions in Section 15300.2 apply.

CDFW Contact Person: Brandon Swanson (805) 594-6175

DocuSigned by:
Signature:  Date: 6/17/2026
Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____