



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
wildlife.ca.gov

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Wetland Reserve Coastal Habitat Restoration & Resiliency Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2026-0040-R5)

Project Location (San Diego County): The 5.95-acre project is located in the City of Oceanside and City of Carlsbad. The northeast corner of the project is South Coast Highway and Eaton Street in the City of Oceanside. The project is located in the County of San Diego, State of California; Latitude 33.169134 and Longitude -117.358141.

Project Description: On July 16, 2026, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued this Restoration Management Permit (RMP) pursuant to section 1670 of the Fish and Game Code to the Buena Vista Audubon Society as represented by Natalie Shapiro. The Project is expected to establish, restore, and enhance wetland, transitional, and upland habitat function and values in and adjacent to the Buena Vista Lagoon. CDFW has determined that the Project is a Qualifying Restoration Project pursuant to section 1671(d)(1) of the Fish and Game Code, and the Project is expected to result in a substantial, cumulative benefit to native wildlife, plants, and their habitat. This notice is to advise that CDFW issued the above-described RMP on the date signed below.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:

Natalie Shapiro
Buena Vista Audubon Society
(406) 241-2153
buenavistanature@gmail.com
PO Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

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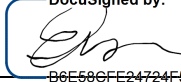
Exempt Status:

☒ Statutory Exemption. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.56)

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. Under Public Resources Code section 21080.1, subdivision (a), the lead agency is responsible for determining whether a project is exempt from CEQA, and that determination is final and conclusive on all persons, including responsible agencies. Notwithstanding Section 21080.1, subdivision (a), a lead agency's determination that a project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56 is only valid if the exemption determination is made after the Director of CDFW has concurred with the lead agency's preliminary determination that the project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive.

On September 3, 2024, the City of Oceanside (City) made a preliminary determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive. On October 9, 2024, the Director of CDFW concurred with the City's preliminary determination. On January 27, 2025, the City as CEQA lead agency made a final determination that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, and the City determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. CDFW, now acting as a CEQA responsible agency for the issuance of the RMP on July 16, 2026, is bound by the City's determination on January 27, 2025, that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.

CDFW Contact Person: Frederic (Fritz) Rieman (Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisory), (562) 619-0605, Frederic.rieman@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  Date: 7/16/2026
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Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager

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Date received for filing at LCI: