

Elaina Cano
San Luis Obispo
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FISH FISH AND WILDLIFE FILING	\$0.00
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PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE

8/5/26, 2:20 PM PST MMaltby
San Luis Obispo

**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
40-08052026-201

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL alparker@co.slo.ca.us	DATE 08/05/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
PROJECT TITLE KNOLLWOOD HAZARD TREE REMOVAL PROJECT		

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL slunitforester@gmail.com	PHONE NUMBER (805) 305-1846
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS PO BOX 5305	CITY SAN LUIS OBISPO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93403

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227.50	\$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$ _____

☒ Exempt from fee☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
☐ County documentary handling fee		\$ _____
☐ Other		\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Michelle Maltby, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

Filed in County Clerk's Office

Elaina Cano
San Luis Obispo - County Clerk-Recorder**40-08052026-201**08/05/2026
FISH
Pages: 5
Fee: \$ 0.00

By MMaltby, Deputy





COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING

Notice of Exemption/General Rule Exemption

Project Title and No.: Knollwood Hazard Tree Removal Project

Project Location and APN:

Knollwood at Black Lake
APN: 091-202-036, 091-202-034, 091-202-033.

Nipomo, South of Willow Road, East of Sun Dale
Way, North of Dawn Road, West of Westwind Way.
USGS Quad: OCEANO, CA

Project Applicant/Phone No./Email:

Alan Peters (SLO County Fire Safe Council)
(805) 305-1846
slunitforester@gmail.com

Applicant Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

PO Box 5305 San Luis Obispo, CA. 93403

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project area is primarily overstory of planted blue gum eucalyptus trees and understory of veldt grass. Significant number of these trees are dead and/or dying, increasing the already heavy fuel load. Project will use a combination of equipment (chippers, excavator feller-buncher, skid-steer) and hand crews to remove dead/dying trees and downed fuel accumulations. Dead/dying trees will be cut by excavator feller-buncher and transported to small landings to be chipped on-site. Piled chips will likely used for landscaping purposes. Hand crews will thin dense brush, collect down woody fuel and prune live trees, with slash being chipped with remote-control tracked chipper and spread evenly on-site.

The project hazardous tree removal activities will be directed by the County Fire Safe Council.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of San Luis Obispo

Exempt Status:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Ministerial {Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268} | ☒ Categorical Exemption {Sec. 15301}; Class: 1 |
| ☐ Declared Emergency {Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)} | and Class: 4 {Sec. 15304} |
| ☐ Emergency Project {Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)} | ☐ Statutory Exemption {Sec. ____} |
| | ☒ General Rule Exemption {Sec. 15061(b)(3)} |
| | ☐ Not a Project ____ |

Reasons why project is exempt: The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption (Class 1 and 4) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, *Existing Facilities*, and 15304, *Minor Alterations to Land*, because the project consists of hazardous tree removal using a combination of equipment (chippers, excavator feller-buncher, skid-steer) and hand crews to remove dead/dying trees and downed fuel accumulations. Additionally, treatment activities will include fuel clearance within 100 feet of residential structures and there is no proposed grading or earthwork.

The project has been reviewed by a qualified biologist for the potential presence of areas which may support rare, threatened, and endangered species and other environmentally sensitive habitats, and avoidance and

minimization measures will be implemented to ensure there will be no potential impacts to sensitive plant and animal species. Avoidance and minimization measures include:

- Survey sensitive natural communities and other sensitive habitats prior to hazardous tree removal
- Avoid crushing any manzanita brush if seen (none was seen during survey).
- Avoid ground disturbing work during flowering/seed set for Pismo clarkia from April 1 to August 31 so allow seeds to set. This will also protect many breeding birds
- Conduct raptor nest searches before implementation.
- In general, minimize the amount of soil disturbed by heavy machinery.
- Only use hand crews in the protected live oak area.
- Avoid cutting willows to protect bird breeding habitat

Additionally, the project will utilize best management practices that are intended to avoid and minimize environmental impacts and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

The parcels are not located in an area which may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern which is designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by a federal, state or local agency. Further, there are no unusual circumstances surrounding the project as the proposed project consists of general hazardous tree removal activities commonly implemented for fire prevention/protection.

The proposed project does not impact any scenic resources for any officially designated scenic highways. The proposed project is not located on a site which is included on any hazardous waste site list compiled pursuant to Gov. Code § 65962.5. The proposed project does not involve or does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The proposed project will not impact cultural resources as there is minimal ground disturbance associated with the tree removal activities. All projects funded by CAL FIRE follow the archeological program procedures which include Cultural Resource Training and there is a plan in place for the protection of inadvertent archeological discoveries. Further, parcels are not known to contain cultural resources based search of the California Historical Resources Information System.

This project is also covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this project may have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, the activity is not subject to CEQA. [Reference: State CEQA Guidelines sec. 15061(b)(3), General Rule Exemption].

Additional Information: Additional information pertaining to this notice of general rule exemption may be found on the next page of this document and by contacting the Planning and Building Department, 976 Osos St., Rm 200, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 (805) 781-5600.

Notice of General Rule Exemption

Project Title and No.: Knollwood Hazard Tree Removal Project

Pursuant to section 15061 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the preliminary review of a project includes a determination as to whether a project is exempt from CEQA. This checklist represents a summary of this project's review for exemption.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Does this project fall within any exempt class as listed in sections 15301 through 15333 of the State CEQA Guidelines?	☒	☐
2. Is there a reasonable possibility that the project could have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances?	☐	☒
3. Is the project inconsistent with any Federal, State, or local law or administrative requirement relating to the environment?	☐	☒
4. Will the project involve substantial public controversy regarding environmental issues?	☐	☒
5. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒
6. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of achieving long-term environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	☐	☒
7. Does the project have adverse impacts which are individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant? Cumulatively significant means that the incremental effects of an individual project are substantially adverse when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	☐	☒
8. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒

On the basis of this initial evaluation, I find that the proposed project does not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from CEQA.

Alicia Parker (alparker@co.slo.ca.us)

(805) 788-2129

Lead Agency Contact Person

Telephone

Signature: *Alicia Parker*

Date: 8/4/2026

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 ☐ No ☐

On July 29, 2026 the project was approved by:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Board of Supervisors | ☐ Subdivision Review Board | ☐ Chief Building Official |
| ☐ Planning Commission | ☐ Planning Dept Hearing Officer | ☒ Other <u>Environmental Coordinator</u> |