

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Santa Barbara

1100 Anacapa St

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

From: (Public Agency): Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

(Address)

Project Title: South Creek Streambed Profile Restoration Project

Project Applicant: White Buffalo Land Trust

Project Location - Specific:

Jalama Canyon Ranch 3635 Jalama Road, 34.568566°N, 120.447823°W

Project Location - City: Lompoc

Project Location - County: Santa Barbara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will restore streambed profile and riparian function along South Creek, an intermittent, deeply incised tributary of La Hoya Creek within the Salsipuedes Creek watershed, which drains to the Santa Ynez River. The project applies low-tech, process-based restoration (LTPBR) to reverse channel incision and re-establish the connection between the stream and its historic floodplain. Restoration is achieved by installing simple, hand-built structures that mimic natural wood accumulations and beaver activity; post-assisted log structures (PALS) and beaver dam analogues (BDAs). These structures slow surface flows, capture and store sediment, raise the local water table, and initiate recovery of native riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat over time.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Central Coast Water Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: White Buffalo Land Trust

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \$15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project restores and enhances habitat and is carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment. This project creates stream stabilization with native vegetation and other bioengineering techniques, the primary purpose of which is to reduce or eliminate erosion and sedimentation and restore floodplain connection.

Additionally, there would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat, there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed, and the project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: April Woods

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (805) 549-3332

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

Signature:  Digitally signed by Phillip Hammer
Date: 2026.08.24 16:54:22 -0700 Date: 8/24/26 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____