NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 275, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.parks.marincounty.gov
(415) 473-6387

FILED

06/25/2026

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By A.Oxlaj Arevalo **Deputy**
21-2026-109

Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

Date: **June 25, 2026**

Project Title: **MEDUSAHEAD GRASSLAND PRESCRIBED BURN**

Project Location: Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve, off Nicasio Valley Road, Woodacre, unincorporated Marin County, California

Assessor's Parcel: 172-350-36

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT: The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing to implement a prescribed fire within the Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve. The purpose of the burn is to improve grassland health and landscape resiliency, enhance biodiversity and ecosystem function, and improve public and firefighter safety through reduced wildfire intensity and spread potential.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Roy's Redwoods) is 293 acres and occupies a mixture of grassland, mixed hardwood forest, and old-growth coast redwood groves in the upper San Geronimo Creek watershed, which flows west into Lagunitas Creek and ultimately Tomales Bay. The project area is in the San Geronimo Valley, West Marin County near San Geronimo Village and the town of Forest Knolls, CA. The nearest residence is 0.2 mile (1,056 feet) from the project area and the San Geronimo Village residential community, consisting of more than 30 residences, is within one-half mile of the project area. Roy's Redwoods is located on the south-facing slopes of Barnabe Ridge in the northern portion of the watershed, and is bounded by private ranch lands to the north; Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and the San Geronimo Park to the south; Nicasio Valley Road, French Ranch Open Space Preserve, and San Geronimo Park to the west; and Mount Barnabe, and Spirit Rock Meditation Center lands to the east.

Roy's Redwoods is a heavily visited preserve, featuring formal trails including the Roy's Redwoods Loop Trail which passes through the project area. In addition to accessing the Roy's Redwoods Loop Trail from the main trail system and preserve entrance along Nicasio Valley Road, the Spirit Rock Trail connects to the loop trail from the east. The loop trail and project area can be reached from the west via the the Top Flight Trail or Thorner Ridge Trail. The trail is sanctioned for use by hikers, horses, and dogs on leash.

The project area is within a 22-acre burn unit in the southern portion of the Roy's Redwoods. The project area encompasses the south-facing grassy slope just north of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and east of San Geronimo Park entrance, bounded on the north by the forest edge and on the east by the Roy's Redwoods Loop Trail, which runs east-west through the lower portion of the project area. The project area consists of open grasslands dominated by non-native annual grasses, especially medusahead *(Taeniatherum caput-medusae)* and purple false brome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), interspersed with pockets of native perennial grasses, coyote brush, poison oak, and occasional oak/madrone patches. The dense, persistent thatch created by medusahead contributes to unnaturally high fine fuel continuity and limits native plant regeneration. Areas of shrubs and trees are associated with the three ephemeral drainages that run through the burn unit. The burn unit contains no surface waters within 50 feet and lies outside riparian corridor buffers. A 0.5-acre area of oak woodland associated with the western drainage occurs at the north edge of the unit, and another 0.5-acre area of oak woodland surrounding the same ephemeral drainage has been excluded at the southern edge for logistical reasons. A bridge on the Roy's Redwoods Loop Trail occurs at the north edge of this exclusion area. Surrounding slopes support dense oak–Douglas fir forest and significant old-growth redwood stands, some estimated to be several hundred years old, which contribute important habitat for species including Northern spotted owl *(Strix occidentalis caurina)*.

Within the burn unit, an area of approximately 80 square meters supports a small population of bent flower fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*; California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2, fairly threatened in California and elsewhere). This endemic herbaceous annual occurs in a handful of locations in Marin County, and in 4 known populations on Marin County Parks' land. The effects of fire on this species have not been studied. However, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) lists changes in natural fire regimes as a likely contributor to the decline of another rare fiddleneck species, large-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*). The California Native Plant Society lists non-native plants as a possible or current threat to both species. The proposed project is expected to have beneficial or neutral effects on native annual and perennial species, including the bent flower fiddleneck population within the burn unit.

POSTED 06/25/26 **TO** 07/25/26

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: MCOSD proposes to implement a prescribed fire within the 22-acre grassland burn unit at Roy's Redwoods. The project area has been identified by fire officials and MCOSD staff as an area to reintroduce prescribed fire under controlled conditions to mimic ecological fire regimes historically present in the area. The proposed project is designed to reduce grassland fuel loads, reduce medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and other invasive annual grasses that displace native species, enhance native perennial grass and forb cover, and restore natural ecological processes related to fire.

A hand crew would prepare for the prescribed fire by establishing and reinforcing perimeter control lines, including using string trimmers to create mowed areas and using hand tools to scrape vegetation and expose bare mineral soil within a 2-3-foot wide area. Woody shrubs or branches near the control lines would be cut back for the safety of personnel and to maximize function of the control line to keep fire inside the burn unit. Cut material would be minimal and would be distributed either inside or outside the burn unit. No mature trees would be removed. The prescribed fire would be conducted within a narrow, pre-established burn window, likely during late spring or early summer, but possibly in the fall. Frequency of burning would be determined after observing site conditions and would be based on what is most likely to achieve ecological objectives. Burning would occur under approved weather and fuel conditions that meet the burn plan prescription. Ignition methods would consist of hand-lighting with drip torches and/or fusees. All smoke management actions would follow the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Smoke Management Plan, including public notification, real-time weather checks, and contingency planning. All work would occur within previously disturbed grassland areas and would not expand the footprint of park facilities or alter land use patterns. No ground disturbance beyond scraping the surface and minor vegetation modification would occur.

Initial implementation of the proposed project would begin in June 2026. The proposed project would be implemented by the Marin County Fire Department's Tam Crew(s) (Tam Crew) and/or Foundry Crew. Up to four crews may be working at the same time. All work would be performed between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Treatment areas would be accessed from existing roads and trails to the maximum extent feasible. Vehicles and equipment would not be staged on private property. Equipment may include chainsaws and fuel, loppers, pole pruners, scraping and digging tools, and other similar handheld tools. Use of tracked equipment within the proposed project area would be limited to the footprint of existing road cuts. During the prescribed fire operation, equipment may include water tanks, hoses, drip torches, fuel, chainsaws, and digging tools. No new roads would be created as part of the proposed project. Existing roads, trails including the Redwoods Loop Trail and portions of the Spirit Rock Trail, or other project areas may be closed to the public for their safety during and after project implementation until hazards are reduced to typical conditions in natural areas.

Except for the compliance with BAAQMD regulations and Calfire burn permit, no regulatory permit authorizations are required to implement the proposed project.

Post Project Monitoring and Treatment: The condition of the burned area would be monitored annually by MCOSD and/or fire department staff to evaluate recovery of burned vegetation, including impacts to target and non-target vegetation, and to detect presence of any new species. Subsequent treatments are anticipated to be the same as the proposed activities but are subject to change depending on response to initial treatment.

Best Management Practices: MCOSD would implement applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) from MCOSD's Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan (VBMP), which set standards for natural resource protection and recreation management, and MCOSD's Bat Roosting Survey Guide. Specific BMPs that would be implemented as part of the proposed project include the following:

Special-status and Nesting Birds Protection: The MCOSD shall implement the following seasonal restrictions to protect nesting birds. If work occurs outside the nesting bird window of January 1 to July 31, surveys and avoidance measures would not be necessary for special-status and nesting birds. The broadest nesting bird window based on Table 6 would be January 01 – October 31. The project area is outside of the 2026 northern spotted owl ¼ mile no disturbance buffer and does not include habitat for double-crested cormorant, herons, egrets, bitterns, and these species would not be affected by implementation of the proposed project; therefore, the nesting bird window of January 1 – July 31 is appropriate for the proposed project. Additional BMPs may be applicable and would be incorporated in future years depending on survey status and northern spotted owl nest locations.

- Surveys shall be conducted within seven days of the start of active ground-disturbing activities within the project area. If the work area is left unattended for more than seven days following the initial surveys, additional surveys shall be completed. This timing is standard protocol based on knowledge of Marin and Sonoma Counties bird nesting season, with raptors and hummingbirds building nests as early as January and the peak typically from late April through May.
- If the biologist finds no active nesting or breeding activity, work can proceed without restrictions.
- If a nest is found within the project area prior to firing activity, a scrape line or hand line will be installed around the nest before firing activity. Ongoing monitoring of active nests shall occur.
- If active raptor or owl nests or active nests of other special-status birds are identified within the project area, a qualified biologist shall determine whether flaming activities may impact the active nest or disrupt reproductive behavior. If the biologist determines flaming would not affect an active nest or disrupt breeding behavior, flaming can proceed without restrictions. The determination of disruption shall be based on the species' sensitivity to

disturbance, which can vary among species, the level of noise or disturbance, and the line of sight between the nest and the disturbance. If the biologist determines activities would impact the species' nest, then a scrape line or hand line would be installed around the tree or shrub.

- If state and/or federally listed birds are found breeding within the project area, activities shall be halted until the chicks have fledged. If work activities must continue and would incur take of the listed species, the MCOSD would consult with the CDFW and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to the initiation of work that would result in take. If activities must continue and would not incur take of the listed species, the MCOSD would establish a buffer area until the chicks have fledged.

Dusky-footed Woodrat Nest Protection: Dusky-footed woodrats provide an important food source for northern spotted owls, and loss of existing nests could impact their prey source. If there is suitable habitat to support dusky-footed woodrats, the project will implement the following.

- The MCOSD shall survey for dusky-footed woodrat nests within seven days of the start of active ground-disturbing activities to the project area.
- If a nest is found within the project area prior to firing activity, a scrape line or hand line will be installed around the nest before firing activity. Nest will be flushed 24 hours before the start of burning activities and again the morning of burning prior to flaming starting. Ongoing monitoring of active nests shall occur.
- If possible, flaming activities shall come from one direction to give any remaining woodrats the opportunity to leave the nest.

Other Special-status Wildlife and Nursery Site Protection: If there is suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species or nursery sites of any wildlife species (i.e. bat maternity roosts, deer fawning areas, etc.), a qualified biologist will conduct surveys prior to the start of the project. If a special-status species or species listed into the Federal and/or State Endangered Species Act are observed during surveys, the project will avoid impacts to the species by implementing the following.

- Surveys will be conducted within seven days of the start of active ground-disturbing activities within the project area.
- Treatment will not be implemented within the occupied habitat, and treatment activities will be a sufficient distance from the occupied habitat that mortality, injury, or disturbance will not occur, as determined by a qualified biologist using the most current and commonly-accepted science and published agency guidance.
- Contact CDFW and/or USFWS for guidance if the project area cannot be avoided and implement the agency's guidance.

Miscellaneous BMPs:

- No healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed as part of the proposed project.
- No ground disturbance or vegetation work would occur in sensitive areas. Pre-work surveys would identify and mark sensitive areas and species. Worker awareness training would be conducted to share information regarding sensitive species and communities, avoidance areas, and best practices to avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive resources.
- No refueling of gas-powered tools would occur within sensitive areas.
- All tools, equipment, and clothing would be clean and free of dirt and vegetative material, including seeds; no soil should be moved on or off the project site on equipment, tools. or boots, and tools should be treated with a 10 percent bleach solution before and after working to reduce the spread of pathogens.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks and Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Chris Chamberlain, Director and General Manager

Reasons for Exemption: The MCOSD has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following sections of the California Administrative Code:

Section 21080.49: Fire Protection Projects: This Statutory Exemption applies to specified wildfire risk reduction projects that comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, zoning requirements, and meets the following criteria:

Prescribed Fire. A project consisting of a prescribed fire or fuel reduction to reduce wildfire risk by reestablishing the fire return interval appropriate to the ecosystem for biodiversity or other benefits, excluding projects located on coastal sage scrub habitat or any other sensitive habitat. In order to qualify for the exemption established pursuant to this subdivision, all of the following requirements shall be met: *The proposed project consists of a prescribed fire fuel reduction to reduce wildfire risk by reestablishing the fire return interval appropriate to the ecosystem for biodiversity or other benefits. The project area is not located within coastal sage scrub habitat or any other sensitive habitat.*

1. The project shall not exceed 50 contiguous acres and shall be located within one-half mile of a subdivision of 30 or more dwelling units. *The proposed project area is 22 acres. San Geronimo Village is a residential area including more than 30 dwelling untis within one-half mail of the project area.*

2. The lead agency shall consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that, to the extent feasible, the project is designed to avoid or minimize impacts to (A) candidate, rare, threatened, endangered plants and wildlife; and (B) wildlife nursery sites, including nesting rookeries, spawning areas, fawning areas, and maternal roosts. *The proposed project has been designed to avoid or minimize impacts to candidate, rare, threatened, endangered plants and wildlife, wildlife nursery sites including nesting rookeries, spawning areas, fawning areas, and maternal roosts. MCOSD's wildlife biologist met with CDFW and USFWS June 15, 2026. The discussion focused on a Northern spotted owl nest located outside the 0.25-mile buffer area and whether smoke would be an issue. Both CDFW and USFWS said there would be no issues after the chicks had fledged, which occurred on June 09, 2026. BMPs included in this Notice of Exemption regarding these resources. If an issue arises during project implementation associated with these resources, the MCOSD will contact the CDFW and/or USFWS and implement direction.*

3. The lead agency shall, to the extent feasible, design the project to avoid impacts to riparian areas and water quality through use of sediment and erosion control measures where there is ground disturbance for control lines. *The proposed project has been designed to avoid impacts to riparian areas and water quality through use of sediment and erosion control measures where there is ground disturbance for control lines.*

4. The lead agency shall identify and, to the extent feasible, protect tribal cultural resources that may be impacted by project. This paragraph may be met by reviewing existing records, including the California Historical Resources Information System and Sacred Lands Inventory, or by engaging in consultation with relevant California Native American tribes on identification of tribal cultural resources and appropriate mitigation measures while maintaining confidentiality of sensitive records. *Far Western Anthropological Research Group completed a cultural resources revie for the proposed project in May 2026, which included a records search at the California Historical Resources Information System in Rohnert Park, California (NWIC) and archival research which included historical maps and aerial photographsdepicting features such as roads, buildings, structures, infrastructure, and waterways to examine the history of land use within the project area and to provide additional information regarding the potential for the presence of historic-era resources. Implementation of the proposed project would not impact known cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, or historical resources.*

Implementation of the proposed project would not: result in cumulative impacts, significant impacts on the environment due to unusual circumstances; affect scenic resources including trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or a state scenic highway; affect the significance of historical resources; and is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Michelle Julene

Michelle Julene, Regulatory Open Space Planner
Marin County Parks and Open Space District
Michelle.Julene@MarinCounty.gov
(415) 444-6740 – office cell

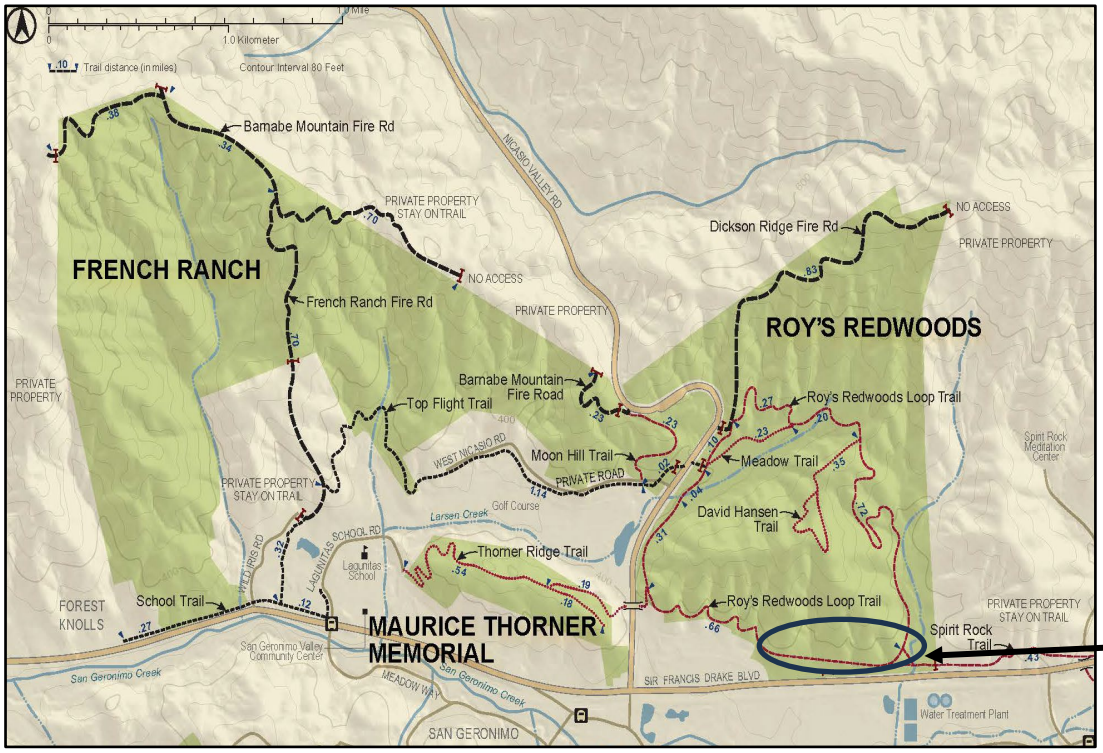
MARIN COUNTY PARKS
PRESERVATION · RECREATION

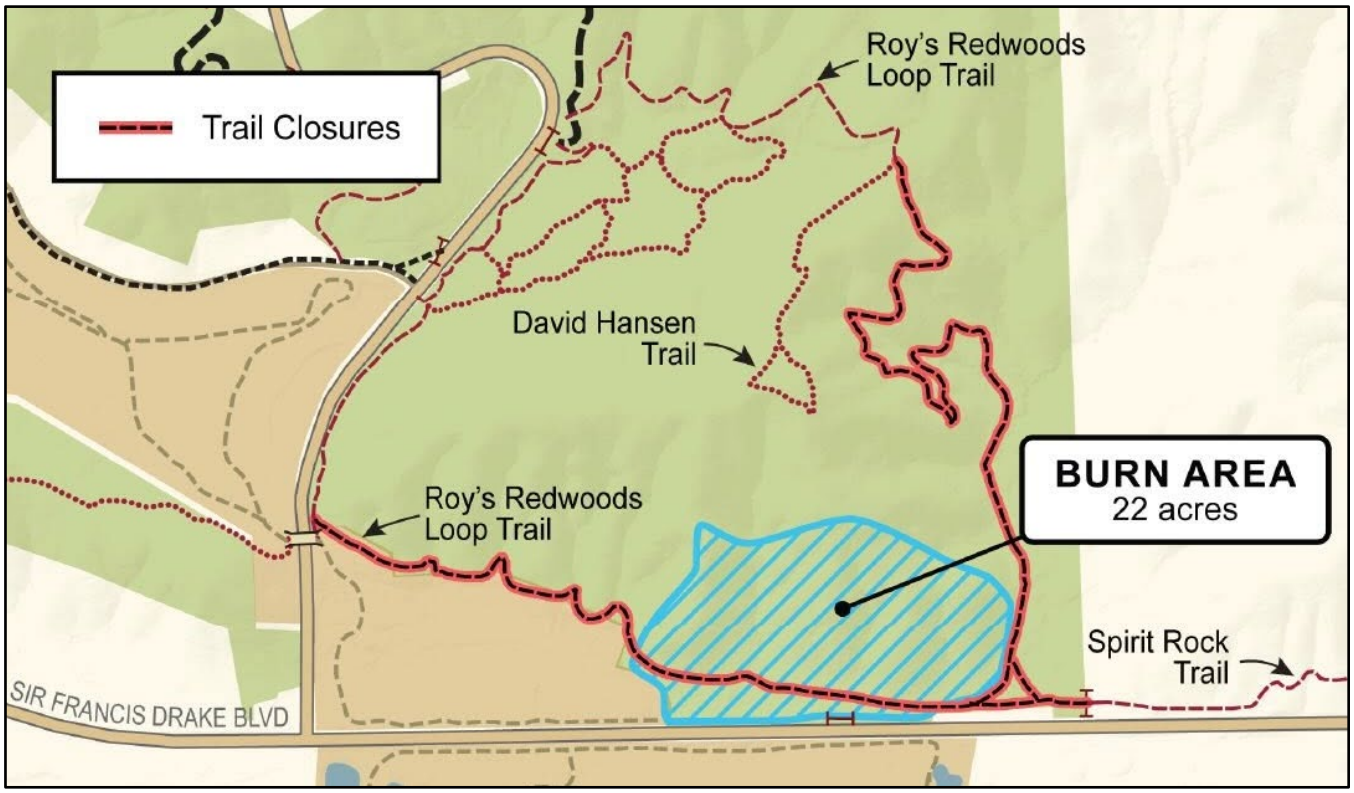
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – LOCATION MAP

ROY'S REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

MEDUSAHEAD GRASSLAND PRESCRIBED BURN

June 25, 2026





Graphics: MCOSD

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

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

Print StartOver Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:
21 — 06/25/2026 — 109

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE		06/25/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Marin	

PROJECT TITLE

MEDUSAHEAD GRASSLAND PRESCRIBED BURN

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE		(415) 473-6387

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
1600 LOS GAMOS DR, STE 275	SAN RAFAEL	CA	94903

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	$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$3,043.75	$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,437.25	$	0.00

☑ 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	$	0.00
☑ County documentary handling fee		$	0.00
☐ Other		$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☑ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** **$** 0.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X	MARIN COUNTY CLERK, A.OXLAJ AREVALO, SR. DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

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

NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental document filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars ($50) per filing in addition to the environmental document filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- ☐ Collect environmental document filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- ☐ Issue environmental document filing fee cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of environmental document filing fee cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- ☐ Mail environmental document filing fee for **CRP** document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- ☐ Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental document filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- ☐ Issue environmental document filing fee cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of environmental document filing fee cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental document filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental document filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as “Environmental Document Filing Fees” per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall submit the documents below to CDFW on a monthly basis by mail or CDFW's File Transfer Portal (see below):

A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
CDFW/ASB copies of all cash environmental document filing fee cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
A copy of all NODs and NOEs filed with the county during the preceding month
A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD and NOE has been filed. If this information is contained on the environmental document filing fee cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain a copy of the environmental document filing fee cash receipt and all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

For access to CDFW's File Transfer Portal, submit email to CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov (Subject line: [County name] FTP account).

Mail to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Accounting Services Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090