Print Form

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: Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): East Merced RCD
2926 G Street Suite #102
Merced, CA 95340
(Address)

Project Title: Sweet Valley Produce - Pollinator Habitat

Project Applicant: East Merced Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

This project is located just outside of Merced at APN: 065-070-052

Project Location - City: Merced Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The pollinator habitat project will be implemented at Sweet Valley Produce, located in Merced, California. Sweet Valley Produce is a family-owned agricultural operation and food hub with deep roots in Central Valley agriculture, specializing in sweet potatoes and other locally grown produce. The project will establish native pollinator habitat within the working agricultural landscape to enhance on farm biodiversity, provide reliable forage and habitat for native pollinators and other beneficial insects and support long term agricultural resilience. The project complements Sweet Valley Produce's commitment to sustainable agriculture and strengthening local food systems.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: East Merced RCD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Assoc. of RCD's through East Merced RCD

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: 14 CCR § Section 15304(b) Minor alterations to land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

As described in 14 CCR § 15304, this project consists of minor alterations to vegetation within an existing agricultural operation in Merced County. Project activities will establish native pollinator habitat through planting and related site preparation and maintenance activities within the existing working agricultural landscape. The project will not substantially alter the existing agricultural land use and is intended to improve habitat for native pollinators and other beneficial wildlife while enhancing on-farm biodiversity. The proposed activities are consistent with the types of minor land and vegetation alterations contemplated under the Class 4 categorical exemption, including new landscaping under 14 CCR § 15304(b).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Zachary Wells Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 2092054980

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: Zachary Wells Date: 9/29/2026 Title: Executive Director

▪ 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: _____