Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of San Luis Obispo
1144 Monterey Street, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

From: City of San Luis Obispo
Community Development Department
990 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3249

☐ Filing Not Required

Project Title: Bishop Peak Riparian Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific: Parcel Number - 052-601-010. Accessed via gate off Highway 1 across from Stenner Creek Road, located at the end of the dirt road that winds up the hill.

Project Location - City: San Luis Obispo **Project Location - County**: San Luis Obispo

Description of Project: The proposed project consists of the implementation of two restoration projects at Bishop Peak Open Space. Together, the installation of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and the planting of native vegetation are expected to increase water retention and water quality, improve riparian and grassland habitat, enhance resilience to future floods and fires, and sequester additional carbon. First, the proposed project will incorporate BDAs, a low-tech process-based restoration technique, which will help improve the hydrology and health of the riparian gully in the project area by halting erosion, capturing sediment, reducing water velocity, raising the water table, and creating heterogeneous wetland features for wildlife. Approximately 10 BDAs will be installed over the 5-year permit period. The BDAs will be located in the gully stream channel and along the bank using locally sourced woody material. They will be approximately 5 feet long (stream length) and up to 15 feet wide (stream width). The project also includes invasive plant removal and planting native riparian vegetation to accelerate habitat improvement. Within a riparian buffer extending 10-75 ft from the thalweg, various native trees (Sycamores, Oaks, Cottonwood), riparian shrubs (Toyon, Willows), forbs and graminoids (Deer Grass, Basket Rush) will be planted by hand in holes approximately 1-2 feet deep. To support plant establishment, an "off-grid" irrigation system will be installed. The irrigation system will distribute water from a 250-gallon cube on a mobile trailer that is regularly refilled and connected to a semi-permanent above-ground network of irrigation tubing and emitters. Additionally, native perennial grassland seeds will be hand-collected on-site and distributed throughout the floodplain. To prepare for plantings and seed scattering, manual invasive plant removal and weed-whipping will be used to suppress non-native flora. In sum, this work will create a buffer zone that provides a variety of benefits, such as accommodating floods, trapping sediment, improving water quality, and establishing wildlife habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: City of San Luis Obispo

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Robert A. Hill, Natural Resources Manager

Exempt Status (check one):

- □ Ministerial (Section 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: Title 14 §15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- □ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: The project consists of a small habitat restoration project not exceeding a total of 5 acres in size or 500 linear feet of in-stream habitat. The project will not have a significant adverse impact to special status species because:

A. Beaver-dam analogs consisting of natural vegetative materials will be installed by hand to rehydrate and stabilize in-stream habitat damaged by recent storms. These small in-stream structures located in the wetted portion of the channel will be constructed starting at the bottom of the drainage and working up. By starting with the structure

furthest downstream, each progressive installation will create an additional natural sediment filter. This will ensure that disturbed creekbed sediment mobilized during installation is mitigated by the downstream structures before exiting the project area. A potential small pulse of sediment from the construction of the bottom structure will be filtered through straw wattles before exiting the project area. To prevent harm to any nesting birds, no project activity shall occur from February 15 through August 31, unless an Avian Nesting Survey is completed prior to the start of project activity. If any nesting activity is found, permittee shall protect nests with a minimum 250-foot buffer until the young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest site for survival. Additionally, during in-channel installation, a biologist and/or trained professional will be onsite to inspect the area and monitor for wildlife. The planting of native trees, shrubs, and other native vegetation will stabilize the new in-stream structures and shade the corridor.

B. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site.

C. The project will not result in any significant project-specific impacts or cumulative impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects because the project is limited to habitat restoration and will be implemented outside of the rainy season and using hand crews. When implemented, the project will result in beneficial effects to the riparian corridor including habitat enhancement for plants and wildlife species and erosion and sedimentation control.

Lead Agency: **City of San Luis Obispo**
Contact Person: Shawna Scott **Area Code/Telephone/Ext.** 805.781.7176

Signature: Shawna Scott Date: November 2, 2026

By: Shawna Scott, Assistant Director of Utilities

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

RECEIPT NUMBER:
40-11022026-296

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
SAN LUIS OBISPO CITY	sscott@slocity.org	11/02/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO	

PROJECT TITLE
BISHOP PEAK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO	sscott@slocity.org	(805) 781-7100

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
990 PALM STREET	SAN LUIS OBISPO	CA	93401

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		$ $90.00
☐ Other		$

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☒ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ $90.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X Michelle Maltby	Michelle Maltby, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

Filed in County Clerk's Office
Elaina Cano
San Luis Obispo - County Clerk-Recorder

40-11022026-296

11/02/2026
FISH
Pages: 3
Fee: $ 90.00

By MMaltby, Deputy