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Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: **Wildlife Conservation Board**
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: James Croft

Project Title: Grasslands Ecological Area Hunting Access

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

37.104764, -120.935314

Los Banos, North Grasslands, and Volta Wildlife Areas

Project Location – City: Los Banos

Project Location – County: Merced

CEQA Region: N. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

This project will improve public access and safety by upgrading infrastructure, including replacing hunting blinds, adding ADA-accessible options, installing lighting, and improving roads and parking facilities with gravel. Enhancements will increase hunter access, support mobility-impaired users, and create safer conditions for the public. WCB Project Tracking ID: 2026068.

Public Agency Approving Project: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Rebecca J. Fris, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- ☑ Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- ☐ Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

Project consists of the repair, maintenance and minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former uses; the replacement and reconstruction of existing structures and facilities at the same site and with substantially the same purpose; and the new construction of a limited number of new, small structures.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rebecca J. Fris

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 212-5637

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, (by this notice) ☐ No

Signature: Signed by: Rebecca J. Fris 1EAD9B041E6D478... **Title:** Deputy Executive Director **Date:** 11/20/2026

☑ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

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

SCH #:
Posted Date:
Date Received for Filing at OPR:

ec: WCB Project Tracker
WCB Board Meeting Folder