

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning & Development, Energy & Minerals Division

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 055-010-014, 055-010-027, and 059-020-060 Case No.: N/A

Location: San Marcos Preserve – Second District

Projects Title: Restoration and Preservation of Native Grassland Habitat

Projects Description: Approval of a contract to award funding towards restoring and preserving native grassland habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Channel Island Restoration

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Definitions – No Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(4) and 15333

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Approval of a contract to fund restoration of grassland habitat does not meet the definition of a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), which exempts government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Implementation of a restoration plan for the San Marcos Preserve would assure the restoration, enhancement, and protection of 3-5 acres of native grassland habitat, and is therefore, exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15333 of the CEQA guidelines. CEQA Section 15333 exempts projects that would not exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource

of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The proposed project involves preparation of a restoration plan and restoration and enhancement of 3-5 acres of native grassland habitat on site. No development is proposed; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Successive projects of the same type in the same places as the proposed project would not result in significant cumulative impacts. Beneficial cumulative impacts may occur to environmentally sensitive resources if more successive projects of the same type in the same place occur. There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts associated with the proposed preparation and implementation of a restoration plan. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed preparation and implementation of a restoration plan where there is a reasonable possibility that the preparation and implementation of a restoration plan would have a significant effect on the environment. Preparation and implementation of a restoration plan would restore and enhance 3-5 acres of native grassland. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

This project will not result in any damage to scenic highways. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The project is not located on sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project would not result in any substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kathy Pfeifer Phone #: 568-2507

Department/Division Representative:  Date: October 12, 2017

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

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TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning & Development, Energy & Minerals Division

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 097-371-047, 097-371-049, 097-380-042, 097-380-034, 097-350-021, and 097-360-011

Case No.: N/A

Location: Burton Mesa Ecological Preserve – Third and Fourth Districts

Projects Title: Restoration and Preservation of Burton Mesa Chaparral Habitat

Projects Description: Approval of a contract to award funding towards restoring and preserving Burton Mesa chaparral habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Definitions – No Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(4), 15301 (i) and 15333

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Approval of a contract to fund restoration of Burton Mesa chaparral habitat does not meet the definition of a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), which exempts government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Eradication of low abundance invasive plants species would assure maintenance wildlife habitat to protect wildlife, and is therefore, exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 (i) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Section 15301 (i) exempts projects that include maintenance of wildlife habitat areas to protect wildlife resources.

Implementation of a restoration plan for Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve (BMER) would assure the restoration, enhancement, and protection of up to 5 acres of Burton Mesa chaparral habitat, and is therefore, exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15333 of the CEQA guidelines. CEQA Section 15333 exempts projects that would not exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment.

The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The proposed project involves preparation of a restoration plan and restoration and enhancement of up to 5 acres of Burton Mesa chaparral habitat on site. No development is proposed; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Successive projects of the same type in the same places as the proposed project would not result in significant cumulative impacts. Beneficial cumulative impacts may occur to environmentally sensitive resources if more successive projects of the same type in the same place occur. There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts associated with the proposed preparation and implementation of a restoration plan. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed preparation and implementation of a restoration plan where there is a reasonable possibility that the preparation and implementation of a restoration plan would have a significant effect on the environment. Preparation and implementation of a restoration plan would restore and enhance up to 5 acres of Burton Mesa chaparral. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

This project will not result in any damage to scenic highways. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

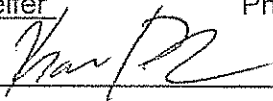
- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The project is not located on sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project would not result in any substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kathy Pfeifer Phone #: 568-2507

Department/Division Representative:  Date: October 12, 2017

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)

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The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 061-220-009, 061-220-010, and 061-261-001 Case No.: N/A

Location: Modoc Preserve – Second District

Projects Title: Restoration and Preservation of Wetland Habitat

Projects Description: Approval of a contract to award funding towards restoring and preserving a wetland habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: La Cumbre Mutual Water District

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Definitions – No Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(4) and 15333

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Approval of a contract to fund restoration of a wetland chaparral habitat does not meet the definition of a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), which exempts government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Implementation of a restoration plan for the Modoc Preserve would assure the restoration, enhancement, and protection of 3.4 acres of wetland habitat, and is therefore, exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15333 of the CEQA guidelines. CEQA Section 15333 exempts projects that would not exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The proposed project involves preparation of a restoration plan and restoration and enhancement of 3.4 acres of wetland habitat on site. No development is proposed; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Successive projects of the same type in the same places as the proposed project would not result in significant cumulative impacts. Beneficial cumulative impacts may occur to environmentally sensitive resources if more successive projects of the same type in the same place occur. There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts associated with the proposed preparation and implementation of a restoration plan. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed preparation and implementation of a restoration plan where there is a reasonable possibility that the preparation and implementation of a restoration plan would have a significant effect on the environment. Preparation and implementation of a restoration plan would restore and enhance 3.4 acres of wetland habitat. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

This project will not result in any damage to scenic highways. Therefore, this exception does not apply.


- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The project is not located on sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project would not result in any substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kathy Pfeifer Phone #: 568-2507

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