

**ATTACHMENT 3a
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Department

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: NA **Case No.:** NA

Location: Goleta Bay off of Goleta Beach (Pacific Ocean)

Project Title: Goleta Kelp Reef Pilot Study

Project Applicant: Fish Reef Project

Project Description: The applicant requests approval of a Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission (SBCFGC) grant with Fish Reef Project (FRP) in the amount of \$15,000 to deploy 16 Sea Caves in Goleta bay at a depth of 40-feet for a kelp restoration project at Goleta Beach. The Sea Caves create critical habitat for kelp, fish, and shellfish. The applicant has already received an additional \$150,000 from other funding sources to help carry out the project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Chris Goldblatt

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: Section 15333 [Small Habitat Restoration Projects].

Reasons to support exemption findings: Section 15333 allows restoration and enhancement projects of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided the project is less than 5-acres in size and does not significantly impact endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat. The project

consists of the installation of man-made sea caves, less than 5-acres in size to promote growth of kelp forests and provide healthy habitat for marine wildlife.

The proposed project does not involve 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 is the installation of man-made sea caves within the Goleta Bay. The project will not result in the introduction of hazardous materials or activities to the Goleta Bay. The Class 33 exemption is intended for habitat improvement projects located within marine habitat areas. Therefore this exception to the categorical exemption 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.**

The proposed project is located within the Goleta Bay. No other project has been proposed or approved within this area. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (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.**

The project is for the placement of structures up to 40-feet underwater for the intended use of habitat creation. There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (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.

The project is located in the Goleta Bay and not visible from any designated state scenic highway. The project would not result in damage to any protected or scenic resource. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemption 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 area is not a hazardous waste site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, and therefore this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

(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 project is located in the Goleta Bay and will not alter or impact any historical resources. No archaeological or other cultural sites are known to exist within the area of the sea caves. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Katie Nall

Phone #: 805-884-8050 **Department/Division Representative:** _____

Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

**ATTACHMENT 3b
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Department

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: NA

Case No.: NA

Location: Near Chimineas Ranch Road in New Cuyama, along Highway 166 between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties

Project Title: Southern Elk Pond Restoration

Project Applicant: Chimineas Ranch Foundation

Project Description: The applicant requests approval of a Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission (SBCFGC) grant with the Chimineas Ranch Foundation in the amount of \$87,676.00 to repair the existing Elk Pond on the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve (CPER) and develop a new emergency wildlife water source. The existing pond is currently leaking and is proposed to be drained and left dry prior to initial excavation. Soil excavation is proposed to reach between 12-inches to 24-inches and stockpiled onsite. The soil within and surrounding the pond will be compacted and covered by a continuous layer of vinyl pond liner to provide a water seal. The stockpiled soil will be placed over the vinyl liner. The project is intended to provide substantially improved habitat for upland birds, tule elk, and other wildlife as well as a prime location for wildlife viewing and birding.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Don Copeland, Chairman

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: Section 15301(i) [Existing Facilities] & Section 15333 [Small Habitat Restoration Projects].

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Section 15301 [Existing Facilities]. Class 1 consists of the repair, maintenance, permitting, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subsection (i) specifies the maintenance of wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, springs and waterholes to protect fish and wildlife resources. This project includes the maintenance of an existing wildlife habitat area, the Southern Elk Pond. The project will not increase the size of the pond or change the intended use.

Section 15333 [Small Habitat Restoration Projects]. Section 15333 allows restoration and enhancement projects of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided the project is less than 5-acres in size and does not significantly impact endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat. The project consists of the maintenance of an existing wildlife habitat area, the Southern Elk Pond, which is approximately 90 square yards in size.

The proposed project does not involve 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 includes regrading an existing man-made pond and installation of a vinyl pond liner to provide a watertight seal and prevent further leakage. This project will provide substantially improved habitat for upland birds, tule elk, and other wildlife as well as a prime location for wildlife viewing and birding. This will directly relieve current and future serious drought impacts to the wildlife in this area and will enhance those populations in better times. The work footprint does not include any environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state or local agencies. 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.**

The proposed project is located the Cuyama Valley. No other maintenance project has been proposed or approved within this area. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (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.**

The proposed project includes regrading an existing man-made pond and installation of a vinyl pond liner to provide a watertight seal and prevent further leakage. This project will provide substantially improved habitat for upland birds, tule elk, and other wildlife as well as a prime location for wildlife viewing and birding. This will directly relieve current and future serious drought impacts to the wildlife in this area and will enhance those populations in better times. There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (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.**

The project is located in the Cuyama Valley adjacent to Highway 166, which is not a designated scenic highway. However, the project site is not visible from Highway 166 or any designated state scenic highway. The project would not result in damage to any protected or scenic resource. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemption 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 area is not a hazardous waste site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, and therefore this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

(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 project is located in the Cuyama Valley and will not alter or impact any historical resources. No archaeological or other cultural sites are known to exist within the area of the sea caves. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Katie Nall

Phone #: 805-884-8050 **Department/Division Representative:** _____

Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____