

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Katie Nall, Santa Barbara County 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:** County of Santa Barbara      **Case No.:** NA

**Location:** County of Santa Barbara

**Project Title:** Red Rock Trail Restoration

**Project Applicant:** Los Padres Forest Association

**Project Description:** The applicant, Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA), requests approval of a Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission (SBCFGC) grant in the amount of \$18,181 to help fund the Red Rock Trail Restoration project. The project will restore 28W06 Gibraltar Trail / 5N18.4 Red Rock, known as the Red Rock Trail, in the Santa Ynez Recreation Area of the Los Padres National Forest. In January 2023, major storms caused a 170-foot landslide at mile 0.4 above the first Red Rock Pool and washed out all the river crossings on the trail. Due to the now unclear trail corridor, trail users often travel off trail through the riverbed, causing more damage to the sensitive riparian corridor. LPFA has developed a 3-part plan to restore the trail. First, a Trail Crew will restore the rockslide area with hand tools and a mini excavator, rolling and dropping unstable rocks, removing slide material, rebuilding tread, and improving drainage. This work will take approximately 2 weeks. Second, LPFA staff will lead 5 volunteer projects to define the trail in the riverbed, as well as mark the trail at each of the 7 river crossings. This will involve rolling rocks, restoring tread at each crossing, improving drainage, brushing the trail corridor, and marking each crossing with signage provided by the Santa Barbara Ranger District. These projects will be spread out over Spring 2027. Lastly in early Summer 2027, the LPFA professional Trail Crew will return to brush the length of the trail with power tools, focusing on two sections where trail users opt to stay in the riverbed instead of taking the trail due to how overgrown it is. Heavy work will only occur in the dry months of September-December. The project will improve fish and wildlife habitat by mitigating human disruption in the Santa Ynez River, as well as decreasing erosion and sedimentation of the river caused by the current trail.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Addison Jerlow, Program Manager

**Exempt Status:**

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

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** 15301 [Existing Facilities] 15304 [Minor Alterations to Land]

**Reasons to support exemption findings:**

Class 1 (c) consists of the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private topographical features such as pedestrian trails and similar facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Class 4 (f) consists of minor trenching and backfilling to restore the surface but does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The proposal will allow Trail Crews to alter the existing trail which has been damaged from a landslide event to bring it back to previous conditions. The project will not involve an expansion of the trail or removal of specimen trees but will include movement of landslide area (rocks) to redirect the public out of the sensitive habitat area of the creek bed.

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 project includes minor alterations involving hand tools and a mini excavator along Red Rock Trail to remove slide material from the creek and rehabilitating the existing public trail. Currently, trail users walk through the riverbed due to lack of river crossings and signage, causing more damage to the sensitive riparian corridor than travel on the trail would. With a restored trail through the rockslide above the first pool, swimmers and anglers are more likely to spread out along the 3-mile trail to the upper pools than congregate at the first pool, helping to decrease overuse impacts at the first pool. The project will have a net benefit to the area. Therefore, this 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 entails the rehabilitation of an existing public trail, which was damaged from a landslide. There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project, and successive projects of similar nature located in the same place as the proposed project will not result in significant cumulative impacts. 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.**

There are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed project where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed project will occur pursuant to established Development standards, rules and regulations appropriate for this type of project. 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.**

The site is not located within the Scenic Highways Overlay. The project will include the rehabilitation of a public trail and will include rock movement from the slide areas. These are not considered visually significant rock outcroppings. 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 areas are not identified as hazardous waste sites 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 will include the rehabilitation of a public trail and will include rock movement from the slide areas within and adjacent to the creek. These areas are heavily trafficked with public use and do not provide any protection to archeological or historical resources. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Katie Nall

Phone #: 805-884-8050 Department/Division Representative:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 2/17/26

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Katie Nall, Santa Barbara County 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:** County of Santa Barbara      **Case No.:** NA

**Location:** County of Santa Barbara

**Project Title:** Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Santa Barbara County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife

**Project Applicant:** International Bird Rescue

**Project Description:** The applicant, International Bird Rescue (IBR), requests approval of a Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission (SBCFGC) grant in the amount of \$18,330 to help fund their work of rescue and treatment of aquatic birds. The program rescues approximately 80 native birds annually in Santa Barbara County and provides veterinary care to rehabilitate the patients, who spend an average of 30 days at the facility before being released back to the wild. All released patients receive a Federal Band to increase the knowledge and data available on rehabilitated birds. As a “referral hospital”, the IBR treats the most challenging cases that are beyond the capacity or skills of other regional wildlife centers and clinics. IBR receives hundreds of birds transferred from local rescues and centers, including from Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network and the general public. Once injured animals arrive at the rehabilitation hospital, they undergo assessment by veterinary staff and receive a medical treatment plan. Treated birds move to a recovery and rehabilitation area inside predator-proof aviary enclosures. When birds have healed and matured to be capable of survival on their own, they are released back into the wild at species-appropriate locations. The SBCFGC Grant will cover a portion of the total annual costs for serving Santa Barbara County wildlife.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Phil Kohlmetz, Grants Coordinator

**Exempt Status:**

Ministerial  
 Statutory Exemption

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| X | Categorical Exemption |
|   | Emergency Project     |
|   | Declared Emergency    |

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** 15301 [Existing Facilities]

**Reasons to support exemption findings:**

Class 1 (c) consists of the operation of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The applicant is requesting SBCFGC Grant funds to support the continued operation of their existing wildlife rehabilitation hospital. SBCFGC funding will support approximately 25 Santa Barbara native birds a year.

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 Class 1 exemption does not fall within this exemption, the SBCFGC funding will support the operation of rehabilitating approximately 25 Santa Barbara native birds a year within the existing facility. Therefore, this 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 funds will be dedicated to the continued operation of an existing wildlife rehabilitation facility and will not have any physical impact on the environment. Therefore, there will be no cumulative impact and 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 applicant is requesting funds to carry out operations of an existing wildlife rehabilitation facility. 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 funds will be allocated to the continued operations of an existing rehabilitation facility. The funds will not be used to change the existing structure in any way and will therefore not impact the visual resources of the surrounding environment. 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 areas are not identified as hazardous waste sites 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 will fund ongoing emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife within the existing rehabilitation facility and does not include physical changes to the environment and will not alter or impact any historical resources. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Katie Nall

Phone #: 805-884-8050

Department/Division Representative: 

Date: 2/17/26

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_



enhancement, or protection 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 funding will allow for the continued monitoring of previously installed 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 applicant is requesting funds to continue monitoring the effectiveness of the previously approved Sea Caves in Goleta Bay over a five-year period. Monitoring includes field work, analyzing the data, and preparing the reports for State review. The project will not result in the introduction of hazardous materials or activities to 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 funds will be dedicated to monitoring the 16 Sea Caves within Goleta Bay. There has not been a proposal for another site to install and monitor Sea Caves in the 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 applicant is requesting funds to continue monitoring the effectiveness of the previously approved Sea Caves in Goleta Bay over a five-year period. 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 Goleta Bay and not visible from any designated state scenic highway. The project will 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 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: 2/17/26

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Katie Nall, Santa Barbara County 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:** County of Santa Barbara      **Case No.:** NA

**Location:** County of Santa Barbara

**Project Title:** Oceans of Opportunity

**Project Applicant:** Reel Guppy Outdoors Inc.

**Project Description:** The applicant, Reel Guppy Outdoor, requests approval of a Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission (SBCFGC) grant in the amount of \$20,000 to help fund Oceans of Opportunity, a marine education and fishing program. The program provides public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation for students. The program offers two learning experiences, an in-class lessons-based opportunity using standard classroom methods of education, and pier-side field adventures which provide 3-hour hands-on sessions learning about surf fishing, knot tying, crab netting, wildlife exploration, and shoreline stewardship at Carpinteria State Beach. In 2025, 15 Carpinteria Middle School students participated in the program, which includes 20 sessions.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Kevin Brannon

**Exempt Status:**

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

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** 15322 [Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes]

**Reasons to support exemption findings:**

Class 22 consists of the adoption, alteration, or termination of educational or training programs which involve no physical alteration in the area affected or which involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures. The project will fund the Oceans of Opportunity program which provides public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation through a structured curriculum and instructional materials. The project does not involve any physical changes to the environment.

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 applicant is requesting funds to pay for an ongoing marine program geared towards educating students on local ecology and coastal habitats, sustainable fishing practices, species identification, size and catch limits, and the importance of protecting threatened and sensitive species. The program has two educational experiences, one to take place within a standard classroom and another at the Carpinteria State Beach for pier-side field experiences. The project will not have any physical impact on the environment, therefore this 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 funds will be dedicated to a structured educational curriculum and will not have any physical impact on the environment. Therefore, there will be no cumulative impact and 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 applicant is requesting funds to carry out a structured educational curriculum providing education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation. 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 allocated funds will be used either within a classroom or at the Carpinteria State Beach. Neither location will 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 areas are not identified as hazardous waste sites 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 will fund an educational curriculum and does not include physical changes to the environment and will not alter or impact any historical resources. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Katie Nall

Phone #: 805-884-8050

Department/Division Representative: 

Date: 2/17/26

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_